The birth of a masterpiece
The female bond runs deeper than blood!
TOMODACHI NO HANASHI
(The Secret of Friendship)
A straight-forward 10 pages with color splash approach
Story
(Anzora Yell)
KAWAHARA Kazune
Art
(Chocolate Underground)
YAMAKAWA Aiji

OH
EXCUSE ME CAN YOU TELL ME HOW TO GET TO THE CIVIC CENTER?
AH
THE CIVIC CENTER?
DOWN THIS STREET, TAKE A RIGHT TURN LEFT, AND WHEN YOU REACH THAT CORNER—
ALL RIGHT. THANKS
BY THE WAY,
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY—
DON'T WORRY! IT COSTS AS LITTLE AS MAKEUP
AND UNLIKE OUR COMPETITORS, OUR PROCEDURES ARE SAFE!
NOT TO SAY YOU'RE NOT CUTE ENOUGH AS IT IS, BUT A TINY NOSE JOB WILL TURN YOU INTO A BABE.
UH, NO, I, UM..
SHOOT.
THAT WAS A CATCH?
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING PRETTIER? YOU KNOW, GET A LITTLE NIP AND TUCK HERE AND THERE?

TOMODACHI NO HANASHI

Story **KAWAHARA Kazune**

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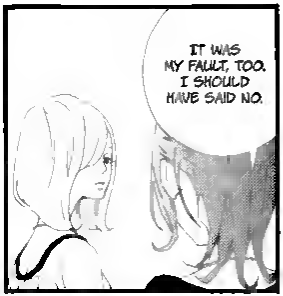
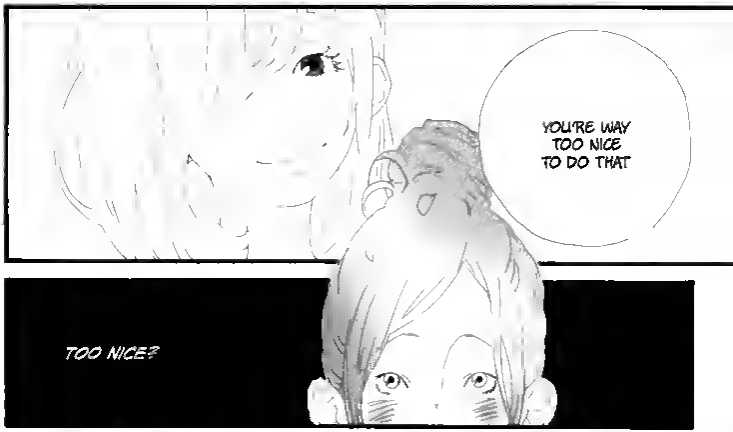
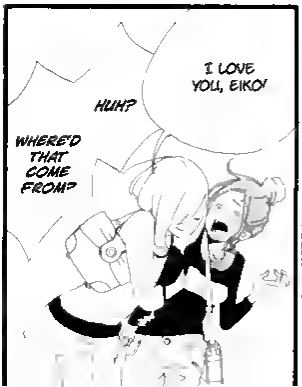
HEY, EIKO
SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING.
OH, YOUR FRIEND IS HERE?
HOW ABOUT YOU ASK HER TO JOIN--
MOE!
OH. AND, UM,
IT'S ONLY 5,000 YEN A MONTH.
UM...
THAT PROMOTER GUY IS GETTING FLUSTERED.
SAVED!
GOOF
DO...
DO YOU HAVE A BOYFR--?
COME ON, EIKO!


IT WAS MY FAULT, TOO. I SHOULD HAVE SAID NO.

I WISH I'D KNOWN. I WOULD HAVE IGNORED HIM FROM THE GET-GO.
THAT DOUCHE BAG. HE PRETENDED TO BE ASKING FOR DIRECTIONS.

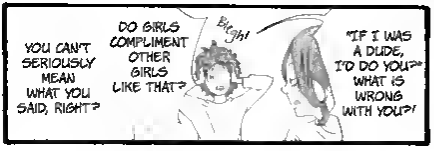

YOU'RE WAY TOO NICE TO DO THAT
TOO NICE?


I LOVE YOU, EIKO!
HUH?
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?

AH HA HA!

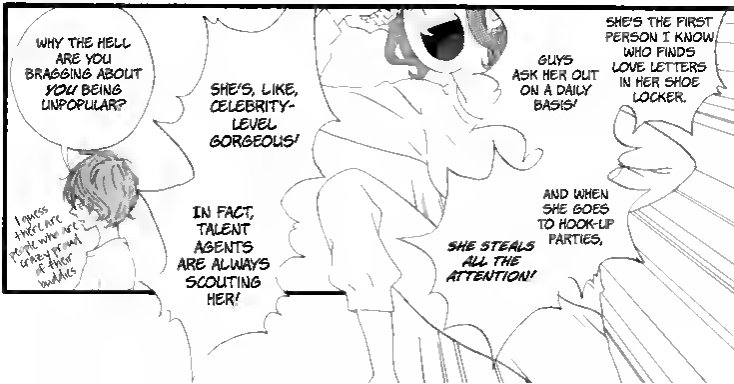
NAH. MORE LIKE WISHY-WASHY
AND A GOODY-TWO-SHOES

FROM YOU BEING NICE
SO, WHAT ARE OUR PLANS TODAY?
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
IS VERY VOCAL ABOUT HER OPINIONS.
BUT THE REAL MOE...
ON THE OUTSIDE, SHE MIGHT SEEM LIKE A PRETTY GIRL WITH A BREEZY ATTITUDE.
SHE'S THE COOLEST PERSON, EVER!
IF I WERE A GUY,
I WOULD TOTALLY GO OUT WITH HER!
THAT IS IF SHE AGREED TO HAVE ME
I KNOW I WOULD TOTALLY FALL FOR HER.


YOU CAN'T SERIOUSLY MEAN WHAT YOU SAID, RIGHT?
DO GIRLS COMPLIMENT OTHER GIRLS LIKE THAT?
Blegh!
"IF I WAS A DUDE, I'D DO YOU!" WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?!

I MEANT EVERY WORD.

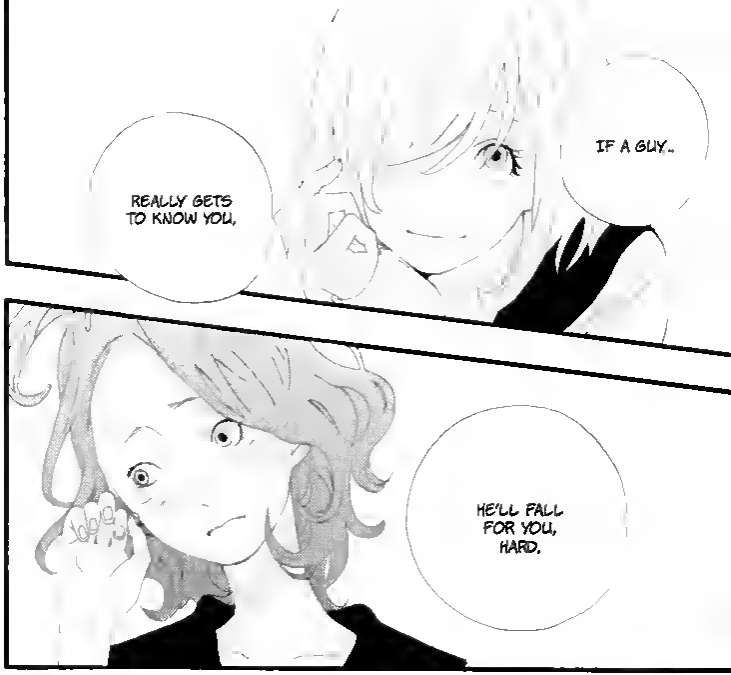
I'LL BET THE GUYS THINK DIFFERENT!
YOU'RE A CHICK YOUR OPINION DOESN'T COUNT
SHE'S GORGEOUS, OK? I WOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT IF SHE WASN'T!
SMACK

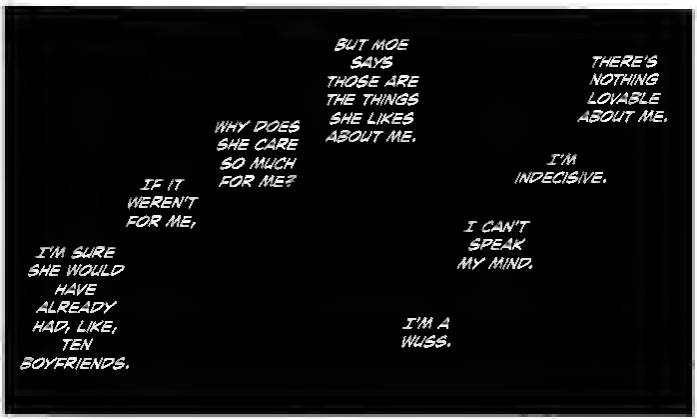

WHY THE HELL ARE YOU BRAGGING ABOUT YOU BEING UNPOPULAR?
I GUESS THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WEREN'T GOREY MY KIND OF THING, HUH?
SHE'S, LIKE, CELEBRITY-LEVEL GORGEOUS!
IN FACT, TALENT AGENTS ARE ALWAYS SCOUTING HER!
GUYS ASK HER OUT ON A DAILY BASIS!
SHE'S THE FIRST PERSON I KNOW WHO FINDS LOVE LETTERS IN HER SHOE LOCKER.
AND WHEN SHE GOES TO HOOK-UP PARTIES,
SHE STEALS ALL THE ATTENTION!

THE THING IS,
WHEN A GUY ASKS HER OUT, SHE'LL SAY,
ANNE, HUH? WELL, AREN'T YOU HONEST
NEXT TO WHAT?!
NEXT TO BEING BEAUTIFUL YOURSELF, IT'D BE GREAT TO HAVE A BEAUTIFUL BEST FRIEND, SAYS ANNE OF GREEN GABLES! OR SOMETHING
OK, IF YOUR FRIEND IS SO POPULAR, HOW COME SHE DOESN'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND?
SURE, I'LL GO OUT WITH YOU.
BUT DATING ME MEANS SPENDING TIME WITH EIKO.
SHE'LL BE YOUR PRIORITY, NOT ME
MOE IS NOT A WEIRDO!
ARE YOU SURE SHE'S NOT JUST SOME WEIRDO?
SHE'S SO CARING ABOUT ME
WHAT THE— I DON'T GET IT
DING DONG
I... DON'T KNOW
!!
WHAT DOES SHE SEE IN YOU?

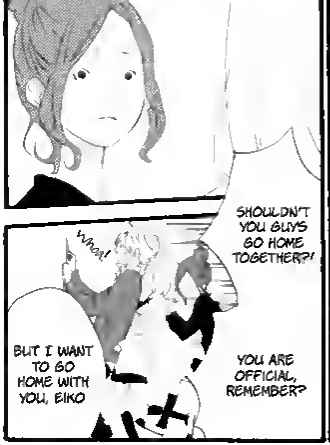
I'M SORRY, BUT WE REALLY DON'T
OH, OK
NO, NO
SORRY
HMM
NO, WE'RE FINE
WELL, UM, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT
WE DON'T REALLY NEED...
WHO'S THAT?
ANSWER THE DOOR-PHONE.
HEY
NEWSPAPER
WHAT'S HE SELLING?
MAKES YOU FEEL STUPID
SURE GETS OLD, HUH?
SEEMS TO RUN IN THE FAMILY, THE INABILITY TO SAY NO

GUESS WHAT? I HAVE A BOYFRIEND!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
WHO IS IT?
WHAT KIND OF GUY IS HE?
DO WE KNOW HIM?
HE'S FROM CLASS D. DO YOU GUYS KNOW HIM? PROBABLY NOT
Glance
OH, HEY..
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE THE ONLY SINGLES LEFT, HUH?
HA HA.
Ahha
NOBODY EVER ASKED YOU OUT, EIKO
WELL, NOT YET!
haha
TRUE, BUT MOE HERE CAN SNAG ANY GUY
JUST MOE?!
YOU'LL HAVE A BOYFRIEND SOMEDAY, EIKO.


IF A GUY..
REALLY GETS TO KNOW YOU,
HE'LL FALL FOR YOU, HARD.

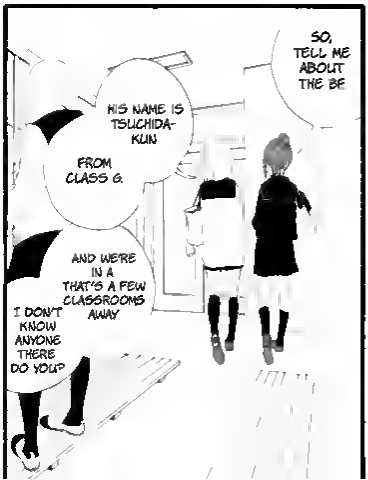

BUT MOE SAYS THOSE ARE THE THINGS SHE LIKES ABOUT ME.
THERE'S NOTHING LOVABLE ABOUT ME.
WHY DOES SHE CARE SO MUCH FOR ME?
I'M INDECISIVE.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME,
I CAN'T SPEAK MY MIND.
I'M SURE SHE WOULD HAVE ALREADY HAD, LIKE, TEN BOYFRIENDS.
I'M A WUSS.

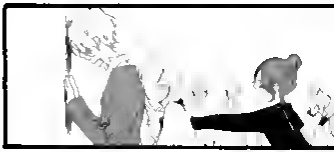
SHE GETS ONE ANY-WAY!
HI. NICE TO MEET YOU
MEET MY BOYFRIEND
RIGHT?
HE PROMISED HE'S GOING TO PUT YOU BEFORE ME
RIGHT
WHAT?
THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING. IF YOU LIKE SOMEBODY, YOU'VE GOT TO TREAT THEIR FRIENDS RIGHT
GUYS LIKE HIM ACTUALLY EXIST?


SHOULDN'T YOU GUYS GO HOME TOGETHER?!
Whoa!
BUT I WANT TO GO HOME WITH YOU, EIKO
YOU ARE OFFICIAL, REMEMBER?

I'M OFF WITH EIKO, BYE
YEAH, SEE YOU AROUND

THIS IS FINE BY ME
I DON'T WANT TO COME BETWEEN YOU, TIGHT FRIENDS AND ALL


SO, TELL ME ABOUT THE BF
HIS NAME IS TSUCHIDA-KUN
FROM CLASS 6.
AND WE'RE IN A THAT'S A FEW CLASSROOMS AWAY
I DON'T KNOW ANYONE THERE DO YOU?



REALLY?!

I WON'T GO OUT WITH HIM IF YOU DON'T LIKE HIM.
I WONDER JUST HOW WELL HE KNOWS ME
I DON'T, EITHER
HE DOESN'T MIND ME HANGING AROUND, DOES HE?
Ah ha
ha ha
HE SEEMS DECENT ENOUGH, THOUGH.
LIKABLE
I HAVE NOTHING AGAINST HIM
YOU'LL BE SPENDING CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR'S, AND VALENTINE'S DAY WITH US.
WHAT?! THAT'S NOT FAIR TO YOUR POOR BOYFRIEND!
YOU LIKE HIM, THOUGH, RIGHT?
I'M NEUTRAL. I BARELY KNOW THE GUY
OH, OK.

SMISH...
IF HE DOESN'T LIKE IT, HE CAN BEAT IT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO OUT OF YOUR WAY FOR ME!
I CAN HANG OUT WITH THE OTHER GIRLS WHO DON'T HAVE BOY FRIENDS. LIKE YOU KNOW MIKU AND ENA.
I'M NOT GOING OUT OF MY WAY
I HANG OUT WITH YOU BECAUSE I WANT TO
I DON'T SAY THINGS I DON'T MEAN.
AND I DON'T DO THINGS UNLESS I WANT TO

HERE I GOT YOU A LITTLE SOMETHING WHEN I WENT TO THE BEACH YESTERDAY
THANK YOU.
UM, THANKS
THERE'S ONE FOR ME, TOO?
ta-da
MOE-CHAN
EIKO-CHAN
2-A

A DATE DOESN'T SOUND TOO BAD IF YOU COME ALONG.
YEAH, A DATE WITH THE THREE OF US!
WE TEXT.
MOE, WHAT IS IT YOU GUYS DO THAT QUALIFIES AS A COUPLE THING? YOU DON'T EVEN GO HOME TOGETHER.
YOU DON'T EVEN GO ON DATES?! HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?!
SERIOUSLY?!
HE AGREES?
HI
EIKO-CHAN!
HEY!
BUT I KNOW A FEW THINGS ABOUT YOU.
IT'S OK, REALLY
SORRY DO YOU MIND IF I CALL YOU THAT? I WASN'T TRYING TO BE FRESH OR ANYTHING
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU KNOW ME THAT WELL,
YOU TWO ARE THE BEST OF FRIENDS.
SHE LOOKS REALLY HAPPY WHEN SHE'S WITH YOU
I DEVELOPED A CRUSH ON MOE-CHAN... FROM SEEING HER AROUND YOU.

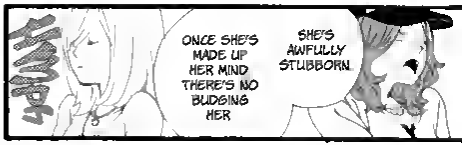
I DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT THIS GUY,
BUT I THINK HE'S A GOOD GUY.
REALLY?
WE APPEAR THAT WAY TO OTHER PEOPLE, TOO?
HE'S POSI-TIVELY GLOWING.
SORRY I'M LATE!
OKIE-DOKIE
YES, MA'AM
NO KIDDING.
?
I'LL GET RID OF HIM AT ONCE
WHISPER...
IF YOU GET TIRED OF HIM, LET ME KNOW
SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING, EIKO

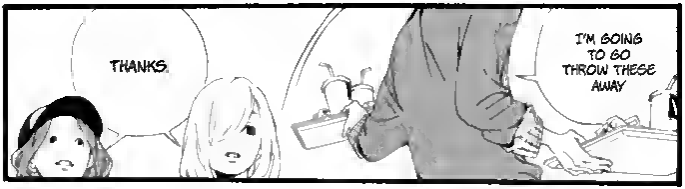
YOU— WILL— TELL— ME.
Are we clear? Hmm?
I WILL, I WILL, I WILL!
SHOPPING! I WANT TO BUY SHOES AND BAGGY TOPS.
UH...
SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO TODAY?
COMING WITH?
Stuck in the middle for some reason.
COURSE!
Gasp
WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?
TRY THEM ON THEY LOOK BETTER ON YOU.
ISN'T THIS CUTE?
HERE WE ARE, SHOPPING TILL WE DROP.
I TOTALLY FORGOT THERE'S A GUY WITH US!
JUST LIKE ANY OTHER DAY!
ARE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES.
GUYS LIKE HIM...
HE'S .. TOO NICE.
Ha ha

THREE IS DEFINITELY A CROWD.
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON A DATE!
Eiko!
WHY ARE THEY LAVISHING ALL THEIR ATTENTION ON ME?
Eiko-chan
Eiko-chan
Eiko!
LET'S HIT THE BOOK-STORE NEXT, EIKO.
Eiko!
WHAT DO YOU LIKE, EIKO-CHAN?
Eiko-chan!
EIKO-CHAN, HERE'S YOUR DRINK!
HAVE SOME PICKLES, EIKO.
WHAT MAKES ME FEEL WORSE...
IS THAT...
HE'S BEING NICE ABOUT IT.
TELL ME, EIKO-CHAN. HOW DID YOU BECOME FRIENDS WITH MOE-CHAN?
WELL, WE ENDED UP IN THE SAME CLASS IN FIRST YEAR.
THE NEXT THING I KNEW, WE WERE ALREADY FRIENDS
THAT'S HOW PEOPLE MAKE FRIENDS, RIGHT?

VERY GOOD FRIENDS.
OUR INTERESTS CLASH MOST OF THE TIME.
YOU DIDN'T BOND OVER SHARED INTERESTS?
AND YET YOU'RE GOOD FRIENDS?
DO YOU EVER GET INTO FIGHTS AT ALL?
I WAS ON TEAM AYASE HARUKA.
TEAM SAWAJIRI ERIKA HERE.
OVER THINGS LIKE WHO'S PRETTIER BETWEEN AYASE HARUKA AND SAWAJIRI ERIKA.*
AH! WE WERE SQUABBLING OVER THAT?
WHO PICKED WHO?
OF COURSE WE DO
HUH? OVER WHAT?
WHAT HAPPENED IN THE END?
WE SETTLED FOR AYASE HARUKA.
I LET MOE HAVE THE LAST WORD.

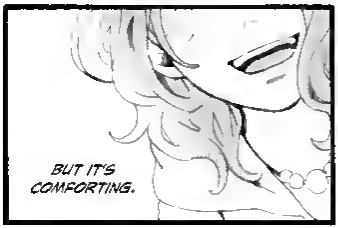
*Both are actresses.





I ASK MYSELF WHAT I'M DOING HERE...

WITH MY BEST FRIEND AND HER BOYFRIEND.



WANT TO GO OUT THIS SUNDAY?
WITH THE THREE OF US?
YOU DID SAY DATING YOU MEANS GOING OUT WITH EIKO-CHAN.
NO, NO, NO.
IT'S MORE FUN TO HAVE YOU AROUND, EIKO-CHAN
LIES!
I FEEL LIKE...
I'M STANDING IN THE WAY OF MOE'S HAPPINESS.
HANG ON. HAVE I ALWAYS BEEN IN THE WAY?
EIKO-CHAN

YOU RAN... ALL THE WAY TO MY HOUSE?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE BUT I FIGURED YOU'D BE UPSET ONCE YOU REALIZED YOU'D LOST IT
I COULDN'T CATCH UP TO YOU, THOUGH!
I GOT OFF AT THE NEXT STOP AND RAN AFTER YOU
YOU LEFT IT ON THE BUS
THIS IS YOURS, ISN'T IT?
I KNOW SHE THINKS THE WORLD OF YOU.
BUT I LIKE MOE-CHAN
WE'RE DOING JUST FINE UNTIL I CAME INTO THE PICTURE, AND YOU PROBABLY RESENT ME FOR IT.
YOU GUYS..
I HAVE TO...
SO I WANT US TO BE FRIENDS.

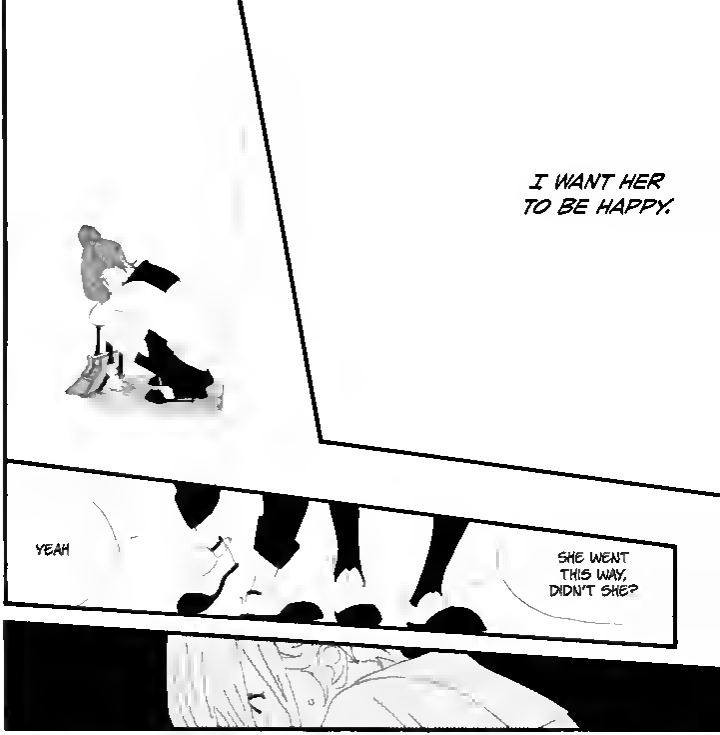
TAKE GOOD CARE OF MOE, OK?
...STOP STICKING AROUND.
SUNDAY—
WHAT?
SOMEBODY PASSED AWAY? WHO? YOUR RELATIVE?
AND THE WAKE IS TODAY?
OH, OK GOTCHA.

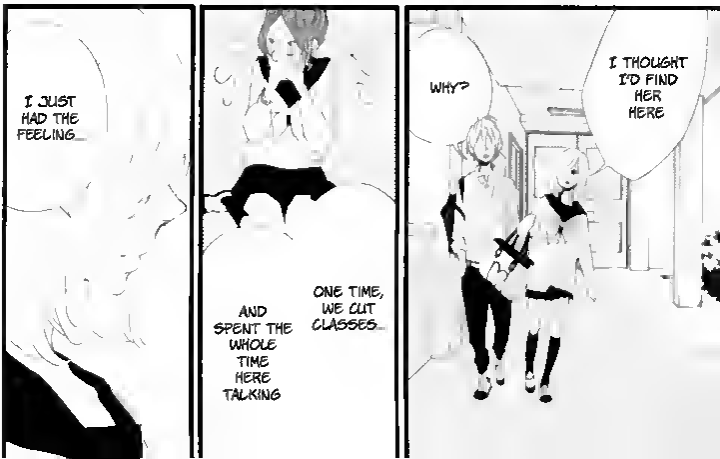
EXACTLY WHO DIED, EIKO?
BEEP
1up
FOR REAL?!
A GUY WHO'S NOT A QUITTER?!
MOE GOT HERSELF A BOYFRIEND.
WHY DID YOU LIE?
EIKO—
Is you leave me, Eiko?
Cut me some slack. Today's my day off.
Hurry and finish your food. And don't worry about the check.
WHAT, THEY MAKE YOU OUT TO BE THE THIRD WHEEL?
YOU'RE JUST RUNNING AWAY.
THAT'S NOT IT MOE ISN'T THAT KIND OF PERSON. SHE ALWAYS PUTS ME FIRST
HE TAKES ME INTO CONSIDER-ATION.
AS FOR TSUCHIDA-KUN,
IT MAKES ME FEEL BAD.

MOE-SAN IS REALLY SOMETHING.
I'D BE TOO SCARED TO TELL HER WHAT I THINK
I WOULD BE TOO
DING DONG
I'M SORRY
WELL...
I'M SORRY.
SHE'S SORRY ABOUT NOT WANTING TO BUY ANYTHING? WHY?
I GUESS SHE FEELS BAD ABOUT IT
I'M VERY SORRY
I'M SORRY
Hey
WHY IS MOM APOLOGIZING?
SHE'S PROBABLY TALKING TO YET ANOTHER SALESMAN
BUT YOU KNOW,
MOE ACCEPTS AND LOVES ME FOR ME
OUR FAMILY IS A BUNCH OF PEOPLE PLEASERS,
IT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY.

GUYS NEVER ASK YOU OUT, REMEMBER?
I GUESS..
IT'S TIME I STARTED LOOKING FOR A BOYFRIEND
OK
NEXT TIME WE GO OUT, YOU HAVE TO TAG ALONG
I CAN'T LIE AND TELL HER WE'RE NOT DONE WITH THE MEMORIAL SERVICE, SHE'D SEE THROUGH IT.
MORNING
I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY DID YOU GUYS HAVE FUN?
I SEE
I WISH YOU WERE THERE, THOUGH.
YEAH, WE DID SURPRISINGLY

...
IT'S TOO BAD YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT YESTERDAY.
SHE MUST HAVE FIGURED ME OUT ALREADY.
I COULD TRY GIVING THEM SPACE EVERY NOW AND THEN.
HOW ABOUT WE ALL GO HOME TOGETHER TODAY?
THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT TIME, I HOPE.
ME AND EIKO ARE—
I'LL TAKE A RAIN CHECK! SORRY!
COULD I BE MORE OBVIOUS ABOUT AVOIDING THEM?
AH!
I'LL GO HOME WITH YOU TOMORROW!
BUT I CAN'T CLING TO MOE FOREVER.
THE TEACHER, UM, ASKED ME TO STAY.
SORRY! YOU GUYS GO AHEAD WITHOUT ME!

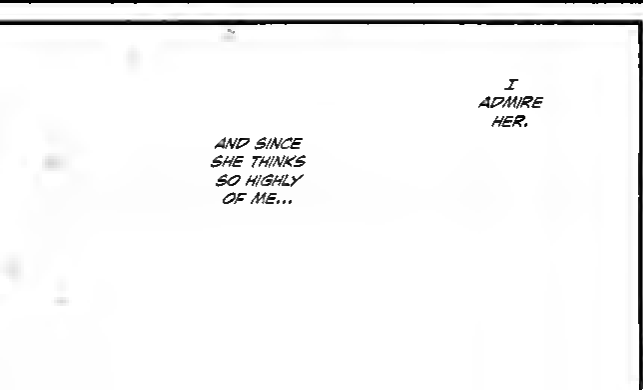

I WANT HER TO BE HAPPY.
YEAH
SHE WENT THIS WAY, DIDN'T SHE?

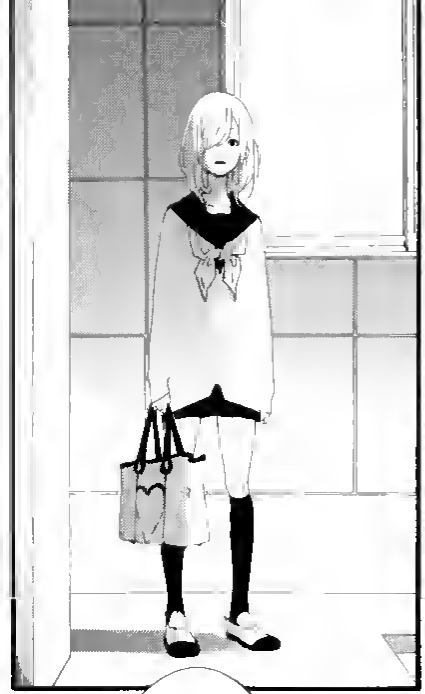

I JUST HAD THE FEELING...
AND SPENT THE WHOLE TIME HERE TALKING
ONE TIME, WE CUT CLASSES...
WHY?
I THOUGHT I'D FIND HER HERE

BUT...
YOU TWO ARE INSEPARABLE, I KNOW
FRIENDS-- CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT THEM.
I THOUGHT AS MUCH.
I'M GLAD WE FINALLY HAVE TIME TO OURSELVES
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
YOU SELFISH JERK.

Thump
SLAP
TRY PUTTING YOURSELF IN HER SHOES!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW LONELY IT MUST BE FOR EIKO?!
I NEVER PEGGED YOU FOR BEING SNAPPISH.
I GUESS I WAS WRONG, HUH?
I CAN'T HELP BEING WHO I AM!
I'M NOT GOING TO CHANGE FOR YOU! IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT, WE'RE THROUGH!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT YOU HAD THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT ME!
SHE FEELS LEFT OUT, AND WHAT DOES SHE DO?
WH
ACK-
SHE GIVES US A CHANCE TO BE ALONE!
DO YOU EVER STOP TO THINK ABOUT THAT?!
YOU'RE TOO WRAPPED UP IN YOURSELF TO NOTICE!

I WANT HER TO UNDERSTAND THAT PART OF ME.
BUT I'M A MEAN PERSON.
IT'S TRUE THAT I WANT HER TO BE HAPPY. THAT I'M OK WITH STEPPING OUT OF THE PICTURE.
MOE HAS ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD ME.
I'M NOT AS SAINTLY AS MOE MAKES ME OUT TO BE.


BUT I LEARNED TO LOVE MYSELF A LITTLE FROM SPENDING TIME WITH MOE.
I DON'T LIKE THOSE THINGS ABOUT ME.
I'M PASSIVE AND EAGER TO PLEASE. I RUN AWAY AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY.
SHE TOLD ME SHE LIKES ME THE WAY I AM. SHE TOLD ME I'M NICE.
I ADMIRE HER.
AND SINCE SHE THINKS SO HIGHLY OF ME...

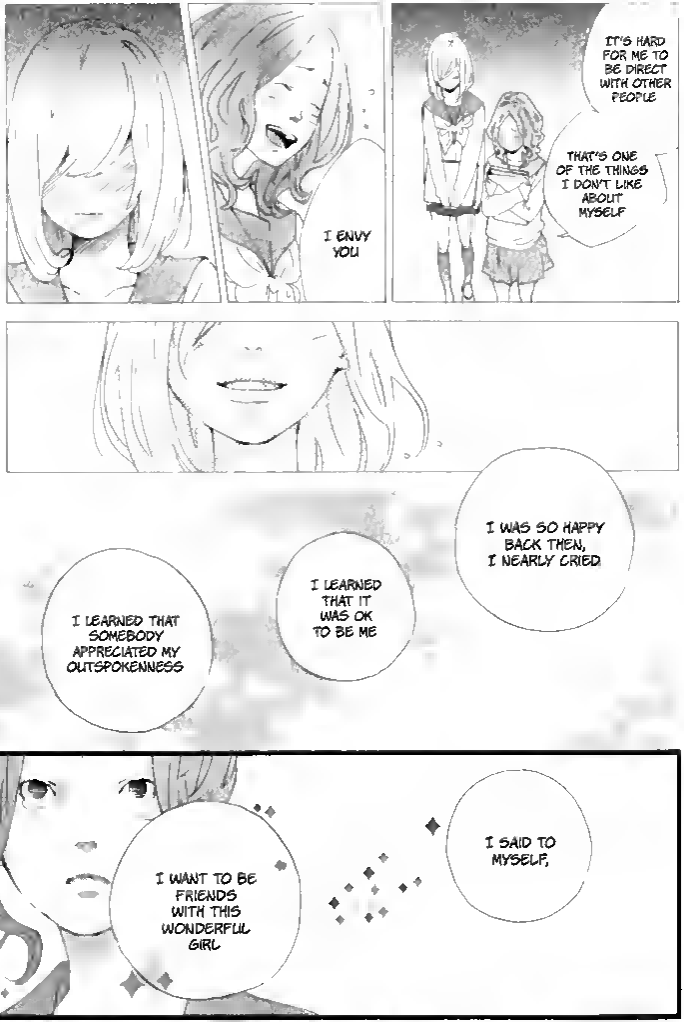


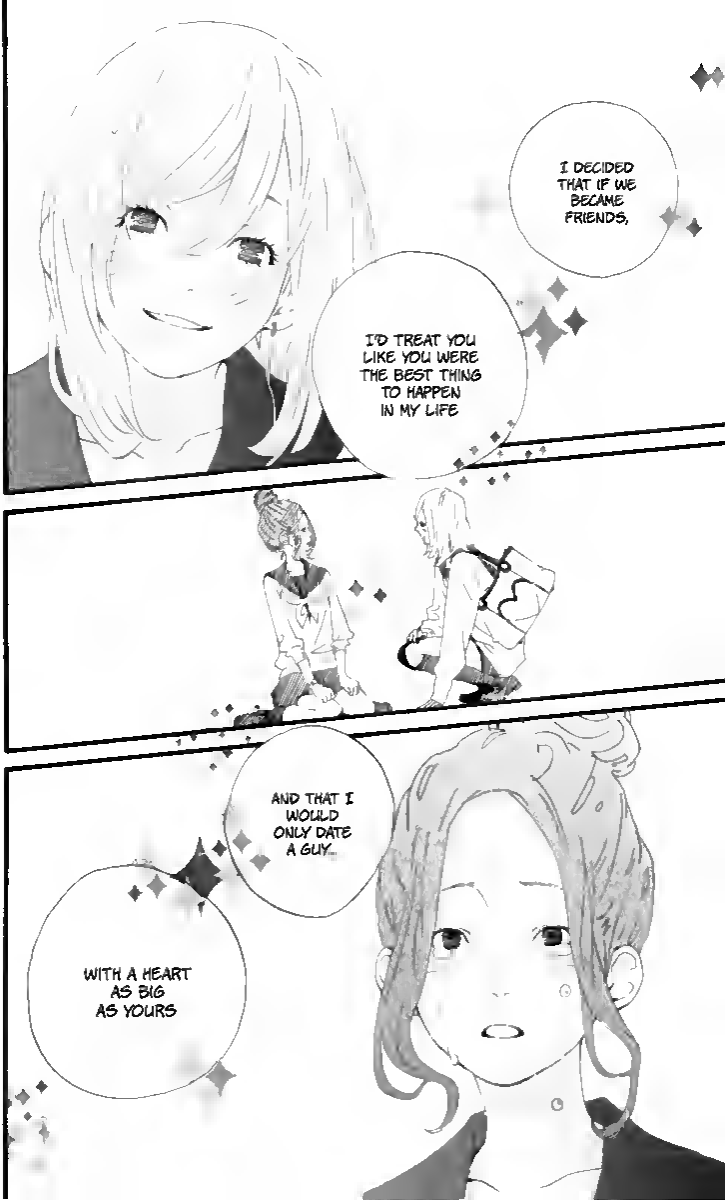
I ADORE YOU, MOE
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU SEE IN ME, BUT...
I WANT US TO REMAIN FRIENDS FOR LIFE

...I GUESS I'M NOT SO BAD AFTER ALL.
I KNEW IT. YOU WERE HERE ALL ALONG.

YOU KNOW,
I GET THAT A LOT
WHAT HE SAID JUST NOW,
"SHE SAYS THE CREEPIEST THINGS"
I GET TOLD THE SAME THING BY BOTH GIRLS AND GUYS
"GOSH! THE THINGS THAT COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTH!"
"YOU'RE A LOT SNARKIER THAN YOU LET ON"
BUT THAT TIME..
WHEN I THOUGHT I'D DONE IT AGAIN, YOU SAID SOMETHING LEFT FIELD
AT SOME POINT, I WAS STARTING TO THINK THERE WAS NO HOPE FOR ME
I TRY TO SPEAK NORMALLY, BUT EVERYBODY MISUNDERSTANDS ME

WHAT A GOODY GOODY
THAT EIKO
TELL ME ABOUT IT
DISSING HER AS IF SHE ISN'T THERE.
LIKE YOU GUYS ARE ANY BETTER,
HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY, HUH, MOE-CHAN?
OH.


I ENVY YOU
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO BE DIRECT WITH OTHER PEOPLE
THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS I DON'T LIKE ABOUT MYSELF
I WAS SO HAPPY BACK THEN, I NEARLY CRIED
I LEARNED THAT IT WAS OK TO BE ME
I LEARNED THAT SOMEBODY APPRECIATED MY OUTSPOKENNESS
I SAID TO MYSELF,
I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH THIS WONDERFUL GIRL

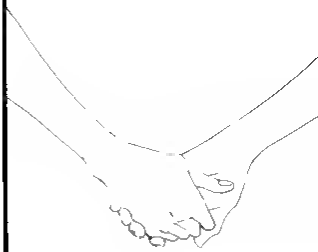

I DECIDED THAT IF WE BECAME FRIENDS,
I'D TREAT YOU LIKE YOU WERE THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN IN MY LIFE
AND THAT I WOULD ONLY DATE A GUY...
WITH A HEART AS BIG AS YOURS

Sniff
Sniff
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, EIKO!

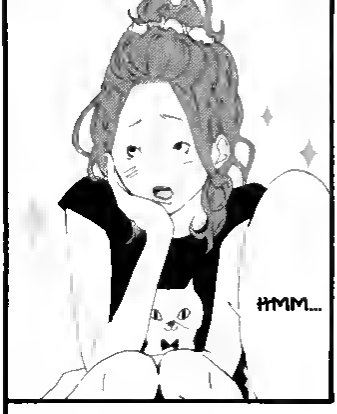
A MEETING LIKE OURS
IS HARD TO COME BY.

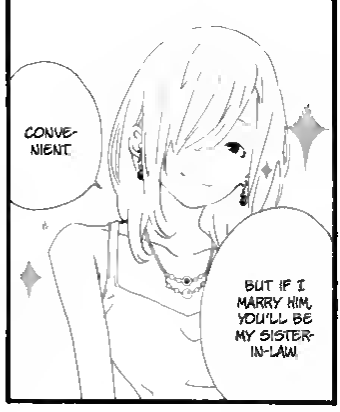
A PERSON
LIKE HER...

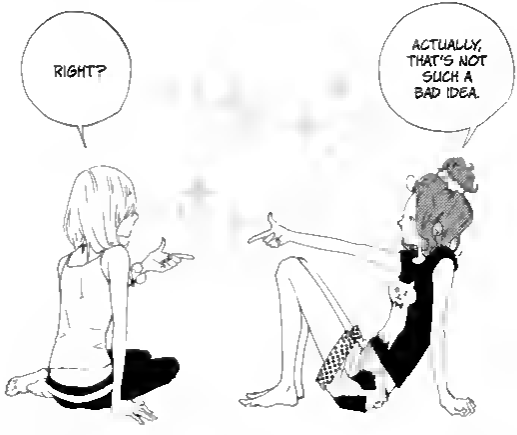
IS ONE IN A
MILLION.



YEAH...
SURE.
Lucky
Blush—
YOUR BROTHER LOOKS LIKE YOU.
SO EVERYONE TELLS ME.
APPARENTLY THE RESEMBLANCE ISN'T SKIN-DEEP, EITHER
People are harsh.
ACTUALLY, THAT'S NOT A BAD THOUGHT
What? I don't even go there!
That kid's a loser!
But you see the love in his face?
SAME TRAITS. SAME INTERESTS. THAT'S MY WHOLE FAMILY IN A NUTSHELL.
I'M READY TO BET MY LITTLE BROTHER LIKES YOU ALREADY.
Hmm
Hmm
Hmm
For real?
In his room once.
I found kinky porn.


HMM...


CONVE-
NIENT
BUT IF I MARRY HIM, YOU'LL BE MY SISTER-IN-LAW


RIGHT?
ACTUALLY, THAT'S NOT SUCH A BAD IDEA

《 The End 》

(The Secret of Friendship)

TOMODACHI NO HANASHI

Story KAWAHARA Kazune

Art YAMAKAWA Aiji

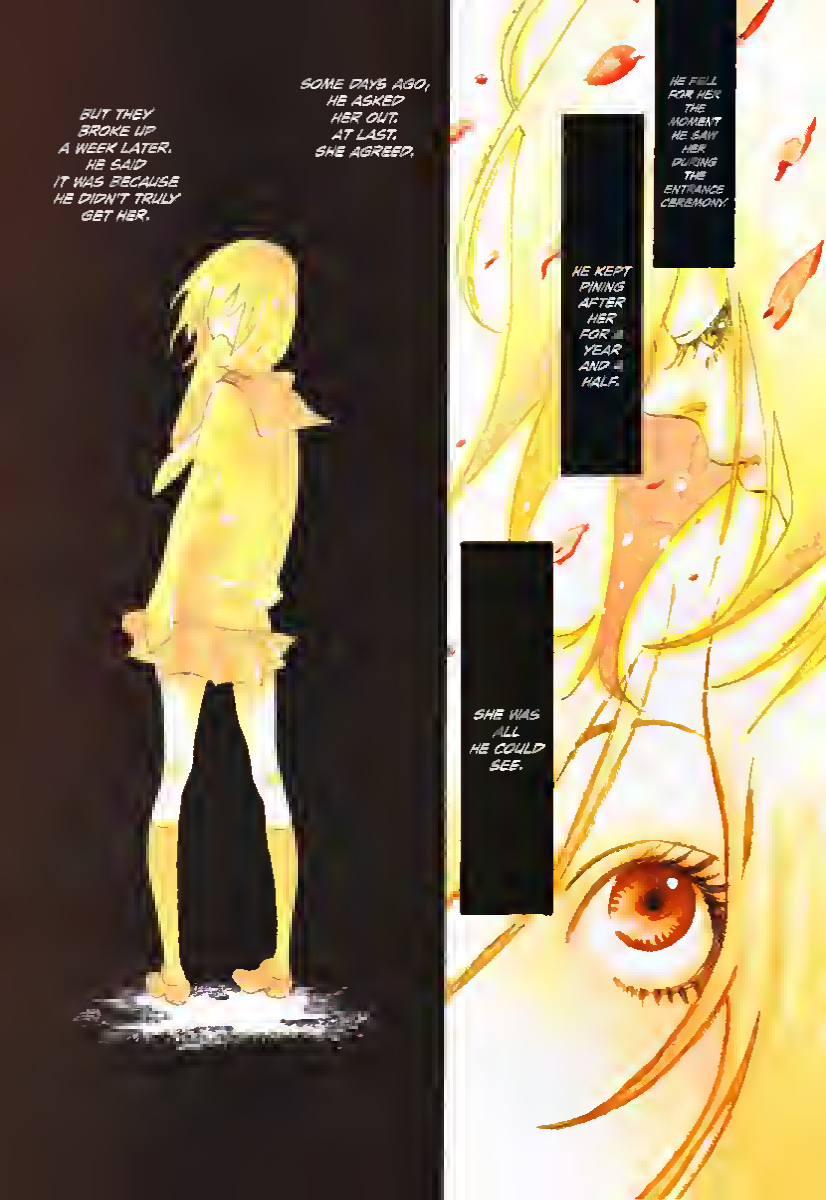
KAZUNE KAWAHARA AND AIJI YAMAKAWA

Black
32 pages
with color splash
& white

Is there some-one who you want to be happy ?

Back by popular demand!

Return of the Manga!

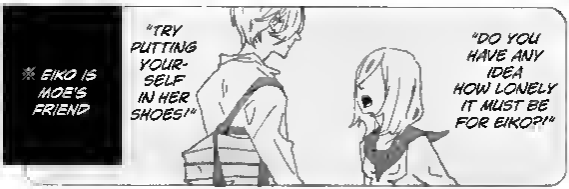

He fell for her the moment he saw her during the entrance ceremony.
He kept pining after her for a year and a half.
She was all he could see.
Some days ago, he asked her out. At last. She agreed.
But they broke up a week later. He said it was because he didn't truly get her.

TOMODACHI NO HANASHI

HE FELL FOR HER THE MOMENT HE SAW HER DURING THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY.
HE KEPT PINING AFTER HER FOR A YEAR AND A HALF.
SHE WAS ALL HE COULD SEE.
SOME DAYS AGO, HE ASKED HER OUT. AT LAST. SHE AGREED.
BUT THEY BROKE UP A WEEK LATER. HE SAID IT WAS BECAUSE HE DIDN'T TRULY GET HER.

I DON'T BLAME MOE-CHAN
IT WAS ENTIRELY MY FAULT
Ha ha
AND THAT WAS THE LOVE STORY OF MY PURE-HEARTED FRIEND, TSUCHIDA.

FISH BONE?
WHAT SHE SAID TO ME STILL STINGS ME— LIKE FISH BONE LODGED IN MY THROAT.
TWINGE
TWINGE
※ MOE IS TSUCHIDA'S LONGTIME CRUSH.
TOSS
YEAH?
YEAH.


※ EIKO IS MOE'S FRIEND
"TRY PUTTING YOURSELF IN HER SHOES!"
"DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW LONELY IT MUST BE FOR EIKO?!"

※ DELUSION
Tsuchida, you dummy...
SHE WAS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT
"SHE FEELS LEFT OUT, AND WHAT DOES SHE DO? SHE GIVES US A CHANCE TO BE ALONE! YOU'RE TOO WRAPPED UP IN YOURSELF TO NOTICE!"
※ IMAGINATION
Tsuchida, are you looking?
...

TSUCHIDA
GOING OUT WITH HER WAS A DREAM COME TRUE.
I WAS SO PSYCHED, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT HER FRIEND EIKO-CHAN.
I COULDN'T MAKE HER HAPPY BECAUSE I WAS TOO SELF-CENTERED.
NO, LOOK—
MOE-CHAN IS KIND AT HEART, I SWEAR.
THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED.
WOW, WAS
I THINK YOU'RE THE NICE ONE. YOU ONLY SAY GOOD THINGS ABOUT HER.
SHE'S A NICE GIRL.
IT WAS MOE WHO WAS IMPOSSIBLY SELFISH.

YOU'RE A GOOD GUY YOURSELF, NARUGAMI.
NO, YOU ARE.
EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T LISTEN SOMETIMES.
EVEN THOUGH YOU TALK LIKE THAT.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE UNREALISTIC.
WHAT FISH BONE?
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO GIRLS.

?
UNLIKE ME, THIS GUY IS PURE AND INNOCENT.
PROBABLY HOPING YOU'LL BE LUCKY ENOUGH TO GET BACK TOGETHER WITH HER SOMEDAY.
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING.
I GUESS YOU STILL HAVE FEELINGS FOR HER.
THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST YOUR EX.
※TSUCHIDA'S VISION

YOU CAN'T BE MORE WRONG ABOUT GIRLS.

THEY'RE MONSTERS, TSUCHIDA.

YUP, THAT SUPER CUTE BLUE DRESS ♥

YOU WORE IT THE OTHER DAY, REMEMBER?

WHY NOT? COME ON!

DEEP BEEP DEEP.

ANOTHER CALL?

SQUEALING FOR HOURS

HOW DO YOU DO IT?

OH, OK BYE!

BEEP

YEAH, UH-HUH!

YOU LOOKED GREAT IN IT! ♥

IT WAS A FASHION DISASTER!
DROP
Wait!
YEAH, THAT ONE
REMEMBER THAT BLUE DRESS SHE WAS WEARING THE DAY WE THREE HUNG OUT?
I JUST GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH ERI
YUMI? HEY GUESS WHAT
...
I MEAN, IT'S SO YESTERDAY!
I KNOW, RIGHT? WHO WOULD WANT IT?
THAT DRESS? SHE'S GIVING IT TO ME
HER LEGS ARE FAT SHE SHOULDN'T WEAR SOMETHING SO SHORT
Ha
ha
Ah
THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH I CAN TAKE BACK TO MY ROOM WE GO
RIGHT. AND YOU WEREN'T DISSING YUMI WHEN YOU WERE ON THE PHONE WITH ERI EARLIER, EITHER
SHE CAN BE SO INSENSITIVE. SOMETIMES I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER
BUT, YEAH, IT DOES SOUND LIKE HER, ALL RIGHT.
NOT THAT I'M BASHING HER OR ANYTHING, THOUGH.
YOU WERE GUSHING OVER IT.
WHAT? SERIOUSLY?
KANAKO DID THAT?
EWW
Ugh
GIRLS ARE ALL THE SAME.

I MEAN, LOOK AT HER FRIEND.
THAT FRIENDSHIP CRAP SHE FED YOU WAS JUST AN EXCUSE.
I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, DUDE, BUT THAT CHICK'S JUST PLAIN EGOTISTIC.
EVEN MOE.
SHE PROBABLY GOT SICK OF YOU.

SHE'S A DORK WITH A CAPITAL D.
SO HOT. I WANT TO EAT ICE CREAM.
LET'S GET SOME ON OUR WAY HOME
NAH, MILKSHAKE.
WHAT? I'M IN THE MOOD FOR ICE CREAM!
MILK-SHAKES...
ARE LIKE MELTED ICE CREAM
WHOA.
CONTROL FREAK MUCH?
Not a bad idea, I suppose.
Let's go

I BET...
MOE'S ONLY FRIENDS WITH HER 'CAUSE SHE'S THE ONE PERSON MOE CAN BOSS AROUND.
AS FOR DORKY GIRL,
SHE LETS HER BFF WALK ALL OVER HER 'CAUSE SHE'S THE WORLD'S BIGGEST DOORMAT.
SHE PRETENDS TO PUT UP WITH IT, BUT...
DON'T BE FOOLED BY THEIR "BOND."
IT'S FAKE.
Moe, you piss me off!
SHE KEEPS A DIRT BLOG ON HER SO-CALLED FRIEND.
AT HOME,

PERSONALLY
I DON'T THINK SHE'S NICE AT ALL.
IN THE END, IT WAS ALL ABOUT THEM.
YOUR FEELINGS WERE THE LAST THING ON THEIR MINDS, TSUCHIDA.

GIRLS AGAIN?
I HEARD FROM AKI-CHAN THAT GIRL FROM C.
SHE'S GOT A BOYFRIEND? DANG.
HA HA HA.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.
AM NOT
TSUCHIDA'S A DECENT GUY.
HEY, ARE YOU SMILING?
TSUCHIDA RESPONDED DIFFERENTLY.
WOW, NARUSAMI. YOU'RE A BADASS
MY SISTER AUTOMATICALLY POPS INTO MY HEAD, AND I MAKE A FACE.
WAHHH
WHENEVER I HEAR GIRLS MENTIONED,
"ONE TIME, THE OTHER GUYS CALLED ME OUT ON IT. THEY SAID, 'OH, YOU LIKE THEM, ALL RIGHT. YOU JUST PRETEND YOU DON'T, SO THEY'LL WANT YOU MORE.'"

HIS EYES SAID IT ALL.
WHEN I TOLD HIM ABOUT MY SISTER, HE FELT MY PAIN.
YOUR SISTER SOUNDS SCARY
I MANAGED TO MAKE HIM SEE MY POINT.
BUT GIRLS ARE PEOPLE, TOO THERE ARE NICE ONES OUT THERE
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT IT AT ALL.
TSUCHIDA HAS A SISTER, TOO.
OH, YEAH
I KNOW A FEW GIRLS WHO ARE, LIKE MY BABY SISTER SEE. THEY'RE NOT ALL MEAN!
OH, TRUST ME. THEY'RE EVIL.
YOU'RE JUST TOO INNOCENT TO REALIZE IT.

BUT I'M NOT.

I'M AN ASS, AND I KNOW IT.

THUD
MY BAD
IT'S OK
...
YEAH, I'M AN ASS.
MY IDEA OF ANGER MANAGEMENT IS BY TAKING IT OUT ON YOU.
UH... HA HA...
HE DID THAT ON PURPOSE.
WHAT A JERK.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, EIKO?
SHUH
SHUH

Hey
THE BREAD BOOTH HAS MORE CHOICES NOW INCLUDING STRAW-BERRY ROLLS
OH?
Mommy
Mommy
BA NG
YEAH, DO WANT.
DO WANT
THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT ISSUES HERE.
WHO CARES ABOUT BREAD?
Ah
Eh
HUH? IT IS?
THAT'S SO YOU.
AH, YOU DID
Ha ha
'COURSE! I DID SAY I WANT IT
YOU BUYING IT?
I AM YOU?
Tu ru ru

LIKE THIS GUY.
CHATTER
I'M GOING TO BUY THE ROLLS
CHATTER
THEN I'M BUYING THE DRINKS
There
COME AGAIN
I'D LIKE—
CAN I HAVE ALL THE STRAWBERRY ROLLS, PLEASE?

CHEER UP, TSUCHIDA
Drop
Drop
WHOA!
THESE ARE FOR ME?

LIAR.
Strawberry Roll
Ah ha ha
WHY? I'M ALL RIGHT
OH! THIS IS GOOD
WHAT? SOLD OUT?! DID SOMEBODY JUMP THE LINE? TOMORROW I'LL GO!
PLEASE DO.
BAM
NOT TOO SWEET
YEAH, IT'S PRETTY GOOD
NOPE

No!
CAN I JUST CUT IT?
KNOTS IN YOUR HAIR? NEED HELP?
OW, OW, OW!
MAYBE I SHOULD GET MY HAIR STRAIGHTENED
DON'T I LIKE YOUR CURLS
HUH?
"OOH. ♡ I LIKE YOUR CURLS." HAH.
THAT SUPER CUTE DRESS"!
"YOU LOOKED GREAT IN IT!"
Cute!
I DOUBT IT.

AH.
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
TSUCHIDA CAN, TOO.
IF I CAN HEAR THEM,
Ha ha ha
Ah ha ha

ha
ha
ha
Ah
ha
SHUT THE HELL UP!
...
ACK!
SORRY!
EEK!

HUH?
CAN I TEAR IT OFF?
YOUR HAIR GOT CAUGHT ON MY WATCHBAND
LOOK HERE.
!!
Snip
Snip
Snip
IT'S ONLY A FEW STRANDS ANYWAY!
IT'S NO BIG DEAL MY HAIR WILL GROW BACK
HEY! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!
WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING?
I'M SORRY.

IT'S RAINING
CAN'T EVEN STAND UP FOR YOURSELF?
HOW SPINELESS ARE YOU?
OH, MY UMBRELLA'S IN THE HALLWAY
I BROUGHT IT TO SCHOOL THE LAST TIME IT RAINED AND FORGOT TO TAKE IT HOME
TODAY'S MY LUCKY DAY!
IS IT THAT CUTE PLASTIC UMBRELLA?
WITH BLUE POLKA DOTS? IT REMINDS ME OF CALPIS*
YEAH, IT'S CUTE
YOU LIKE IT?
NOW YOU DON'T SEE THEM ANYMORE
YEAH CONVENIENCE STORES USED TO CARRY THOSE UMBRELLAS
SOMEONE TOOK IT!
IT'S NOT HERE!

*A Japanese milk based beverage, sold in the US as Calpico. Its packaging design is blue dots against a white background

DAMN YOU TO HELL, THIEF! LIFE DOESN'T REVOLVE AROUND YOU!
MOE, EVER THE RIGHTEOUS
I AM MAJORLY FURIOUS!
...
Grr
THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS
Grr
...
Rumble rumble
Mutter
I HOPE YOU GET STRUCK BY LIGHTNING
WHO NEEDS UMBRELLAS WHEN I HAVE YOU?
WE MIGHT AS WELL USE IT
YOU CAN USE MINE.
UM, HERE.
Zshh
Why did it have to rain?!
Fwaa
Splash
Splash
GIVE ME A BREAK.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

NO, IT'S NOT.
WELL, IT'S YOURS

YOU'RE LUCKY YOU HAVE AN UMBRELLA
WHO CARES ABOUT UMBRELLAS?

IF YOU WERE ME, YOU WOULD HAVE WORKED IT OUT WITH HER
MOE-CHAN'S THE SAME

YOU PAY ATTENTION TO THE LITTLE THINGS, LIKE HAVING AN UMBRELLA READY FOR WHEN IT RAINS
YOU'RE A SOLID GUY, NARUGAMI

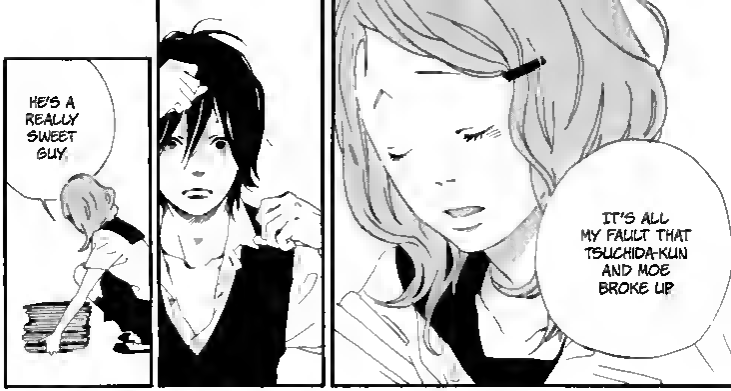
YOU'RE A GOOD GUY, TSUCHIDA.
IT'S NOT MINE, SHEESH.

FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
SHOVE

HUH?
NO RESPONSE?
MY BAD.
HMM?

WHAT, IS SHE ANGRY?!
Clench
IS SHE... SHAKING?
HAS SHE FINALLY LOST IT?
I HOPE SHE DOESN'T HAVE A CUTTER ON HER.
...
WHAT DO THEY SAY? BEWARE THE QUIET ONES? STILL...
CRAP. I CROSSED THE LINE.

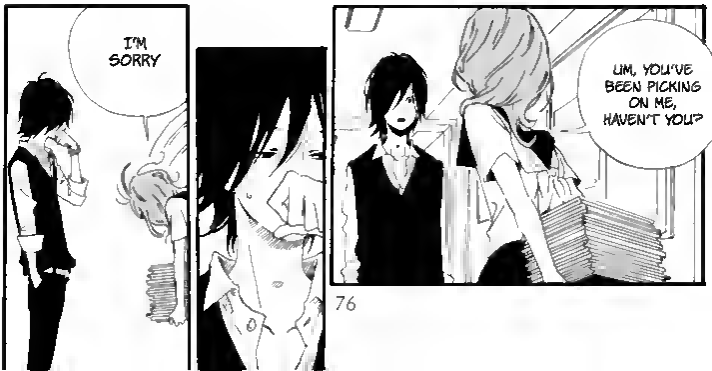
AN EMOTIONAL WOMAN IS AN IRRATIONAL WOMAN.
YOU'RE A FRIEND OF TSUCHIDA-KUN'S, AREN'T YOU?
UM.
I'M SORRY
WHAT?



TSUCHIDA WAS SERIOUS ABOUT MOE.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,

AH.



I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT..
ABOUT WHAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE FOR HIM.
FOR HIS FRIENDS NOT UNTIL YOUR REVENGE STUNTS
BUT IF OUR ROLES WERE REVERSED...
IF IT HAD BEEN MOE INSTEAD OF TSUCHIDA-KUN..
SHE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN HEARTBROKEN,
AND I WOULD HAVE GONE BALLISTIC, TOO.
I MIGHT HAVE EVEN CARRIED OUT MY OWN LITTLE REVENGE ON HIS FRIEND.

Drip
Drip
I'M...
I'M VERY, VERY SORRY
THAT SAID...
WE WERE HORRIBLE TO TSUCHIDA-KUN
I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR ALL THE THINGS YOU'VE DONE TO ME
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I TELL MYSELF
BUT TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH,
I CAN'T TAKE THEM ANYMORE.

I'M TRULY SORRY.

SHE DIDN'T SNAP AT ME.

SHE DIDN'T SPUTTER AT ME, EITHER. PERFECTLY COHERENT.

ABOUT MOE-CHAN.
WHAT...
ABOUT HER?
WHAT'S ... SHE LIKE?
SHE VALUES HER FRIEND!
SHE PUTS HER ABOVE EVERYTHING. COOL, HUH?
I GUESS
WHAT'S HER FRIEND'S NAME?

EIKO-CHAN.
OH? THEY TIGHT?
YEAH. THEY'RE INSEPARABLE.
IN THE END, I COULDN'T MAKE MOE-CHAN SMILE...
THE WAY EIKO-CHAN DOES WHEN THEY'RE TOGETHER
OH?
HUH? YOU KNOW HER?!
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT HER FRIEND?
She's a pushover but you won't believe
NOT REALLY
ha ha
SHE'S NOBODY SPECIAL.
SHE UNDERSTOOD THE MESSAGE I WAS SENDING HER THROUGH THE THINGS I DID.

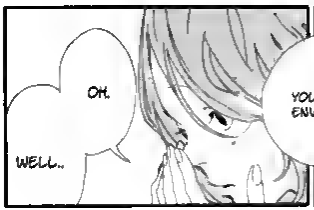
tha
ha
THAT WAS MOE, HUH?
SHE'S ONLY GOOD TO LOOK AT
BUNCH OF LIARS.
GUFF
NOPE
HIGH MAINTENANCE
NOT THE TYPE YOU TAKE OUT
YOU'D DATE HER IF YOU HAD A SHOT.
IF YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN HER, SAVE YOUR BREATH
WUSSES.
!

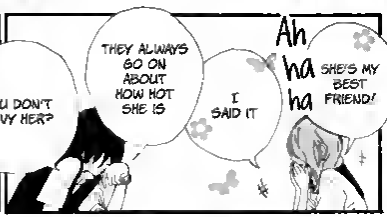
Glare
FLINCH
CRINGE
UM...
I'M SORRY... ABOUT CRYING...
THE OTHER DAY.
TELL ME ABOUT MOE-CHAN.
HUH?
MOE?
UH..
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT?
Moe-chan is...

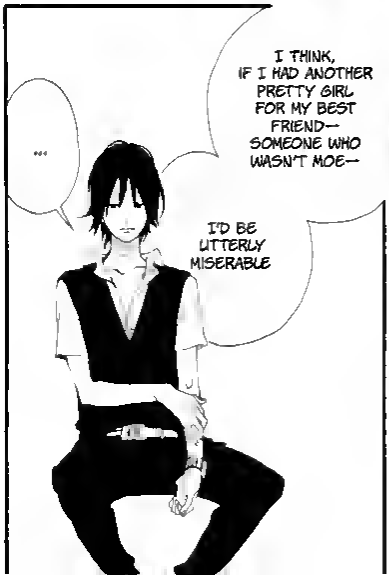
PROUD TO BE HER FRIEND.

HUH? TSUCHIDA?

I'M..


OH.
WELL..


YOU DON'T ENVY HER?
THEY ALWAYS GO ON ABOUT HOW HOT SHE IS
I SAID IT
Ah ha ha
SHE'S MY BEST FRIEND!


...
I THINK, IF I HAD ANOTHER PRETTY GIRL FOR MY BEST FRIEND— SOMEONE WHO WASN'T MOE—
I'D BE LITTERLY MISERABLE

I DO,
A LITTLE

BUT MOE ALWAYS SHOWS ME HOW MUCH SHE CARES ABOUT ME

"GIRLS ARE PEOPLE, TOO."

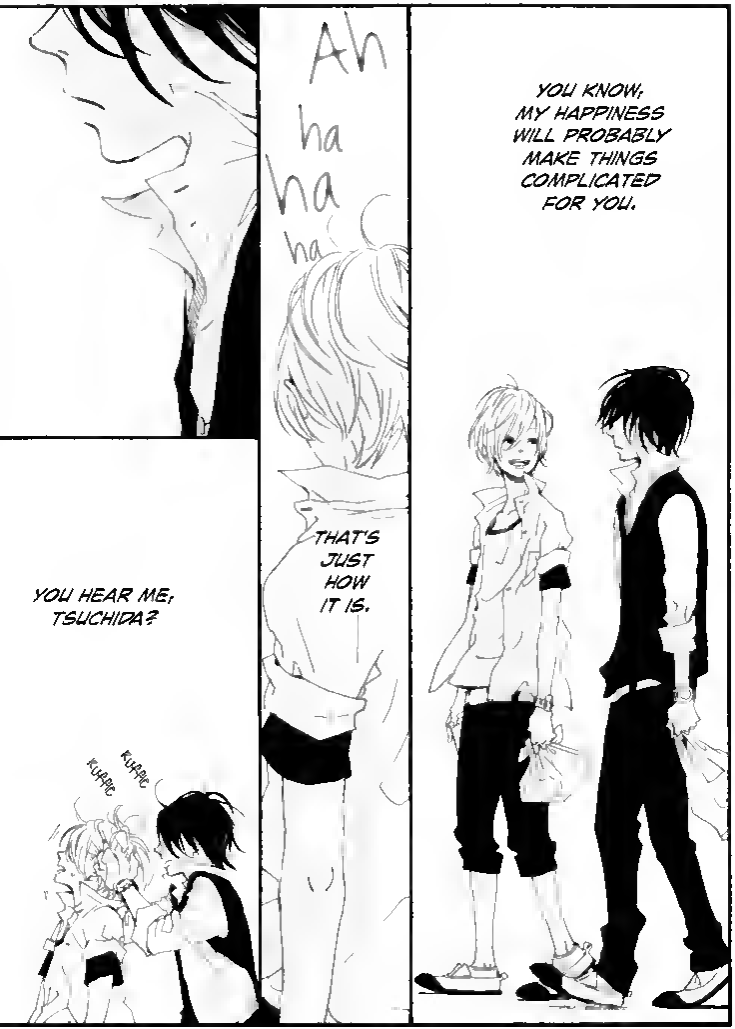
GUYS WHO ARE TOTAL ASSHOLES, TOO.
GUFFAW
THERE ARE...
!!
TOSS
TOSS
HMM.
I DON'T LIKE CHICKEN SKIN.
NOT A FAN OF MEAT?
I'LL LET YOU OFF THE HOOK IF YOU DO.
FINISH THE WHOLE THING.
AND I'LL STOP MESSING WITH YOU
I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY, TOO.

SCAN
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH EIKO?
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ACTING YOURSELF, EIKO
SICK?
OF COURSE NOT, MOE
I'M FINE!
...
"TELL ME ABOUT MOE-CHAN."
IT'S YOU!!
"I'M PROUD TO BE HER FRIEND."

LIES!
NO, I LIKE IT NOW! STARTING TODAY!
WHAT?!
YOU HATE CHICKEN!
THE SKIN!
HE GAVE ME HIS CHICKEN SKIN.
AH, HE'S GONE!
IT'S OK
GIVE IT TO ME
ARE YOU FORCING YOURSELF TO EAT IT? YOU'RE PRACTICALLY IN TEARS!
SHE'S...
YOUR AVERAGE NICE GIRL.
I OWE IT TO MYSELF
I HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO EAT IT

TSUCHIDA SHOULD HAVE GONE FOR HER INSTEAD.
NAH.
HE'S A SUCKER FOR A PRETTY FACE.
I FIND HER MORE THAN CUTE ENOUGH, THOUGH.
I CAN SEE MYSELF...
HOLDING HER HAND...
AND KISSING HER.

NO PROBLEM.
TSUCHIDA.
I THINK YOU'RE AN AWESOME GUY
HUH?
WHY THE SERIOUS FACE?
YOU'RE AT THE TOP OF MY "GUYS I WANT TO SEE HAPPY" LIST
REALLY? SAME HERE
I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY, TOO.


YOU KNOW, MY HAPPINESS WILL PROBABLY MAKE THINGS COMPLICATED FOR YOU.
Ah ha ha ha
THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.
YOU HEAR ME, TSUCHIDA?
KUHAHC KUHAHC

《 The End 》

Thick with friendship!
A massive chapter, with color splash
100P

Why she loves her
(The Story of Friendship)

TOMODACHI NO HANASHI

Story KAWAHARA Kazune
Art YAMAKAWA Aji

IF A GUY WANTS TO GO OUT WITH MY BEST FRIEND, HE HAS TO GO THROUGH ME FIRST.
Why she loves her
TOMODACHI NO HADASHI
(The Secret of Friendship)
A gigantic chapter on friends
100P
KAWAHARA Kazune
X
YAMAKAWA Aiji
Another installment of the popular work by the wonder team!

IF SOMEBODY ASKS ME, "IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'RE PROUD OF?"
I'LL ANSWER, "HAVING A BEST FRIEND."

IF A GUY WANTS TO GO OUT WITH MY BEST FRIEND, HE HAS TO GO THROUGH ME FIRST.
TOMODACHI NO HANASHI
Fi

...
SHE'S GIVING SOME GUY DIRECTIONS AGAIN.
MY BEST FRIEND...
IS QUICK TO TRUST AND HELP OTHER PEOPLE.
AND SHE LOOKS IT, TOO. THAT'S WHY PEOPLE ALWAYS ASK FOR HER HELP WITH DIRECTIONS AND STUFF.

I'M SORRY
OCCASIONALLY, SHE GETS DUPED BY SLIMEBALLS AND SLEAZEBAGS.
SHOULDN'T YOU BE THANKING HER?
SO YOU DON'T KNOW, EITHER
YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME SOONER
JEEZ
HMM?
WHERE ARE YOUR MANNERS?
SHE TRIED HER BEST TO HELP YOU.
TH-
MOE
THANK YOU
EIKO
UM, UH,
AH.
YES
I'M REALLY SORRY
ANSWER ME!

BUT HANGING OUT WITH YOU RAISES STRESS LEVELS
I NEVER REALIZED IT BEFORE,
HE THANKED ME IN THE END PHEW
TRUE, THAT
YOU'RE TOO GOOD, EIKO.
NO, YOU ARE
YOU ARE
IT'S YOU!
YOU!

MY BEST FRIEND ...
I WONDER IF HE'S FOUND THE PLACE.
IS SOFT-HEARTED.
WHO CARES?
LET THAT CREEP GET LOST FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.
AH HA HA. FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE?
Ouch
WE'RE HAVING RAMEN, RIGHT?
HOW ABOUT CURRY?
WHAT?
YOU WENT ON AND ON ABOUT RAMEN ALL DAY.
THE CURRY PLACE WE PASSED SMELLED GOOD.
MY STOMACH DEMANDS RAMEN!
RAMEN!
CURRY
RAMEN!
CURRY
RAMEN!
AT TIMES, STUBBORN.
YOUR STOMACH SHOULD GIVE CURRY A CHANCE.
IT'S DELICIOUS
Where to Go! the Best CURRY!
THIS MAGAZINE RECOMMENDS THAT CURRY PLACE'S PATTY MELT IN CURRY AND OMELET WITH CURRY
WHOA.
CURRY DOESN'T SOUND TOO BAD RIGHT NOW

WHERE'S THE PLACE?
ACK!
YOU GOT ME AGAIN
PATTY MELT IN CURRY
FLEXIBLE.
YUMMY!
I'M GLAD WE DECIDED ON CURRY.
IF LEFT TO HER OWN DEVICES, OVERLY CONSIDERATE.

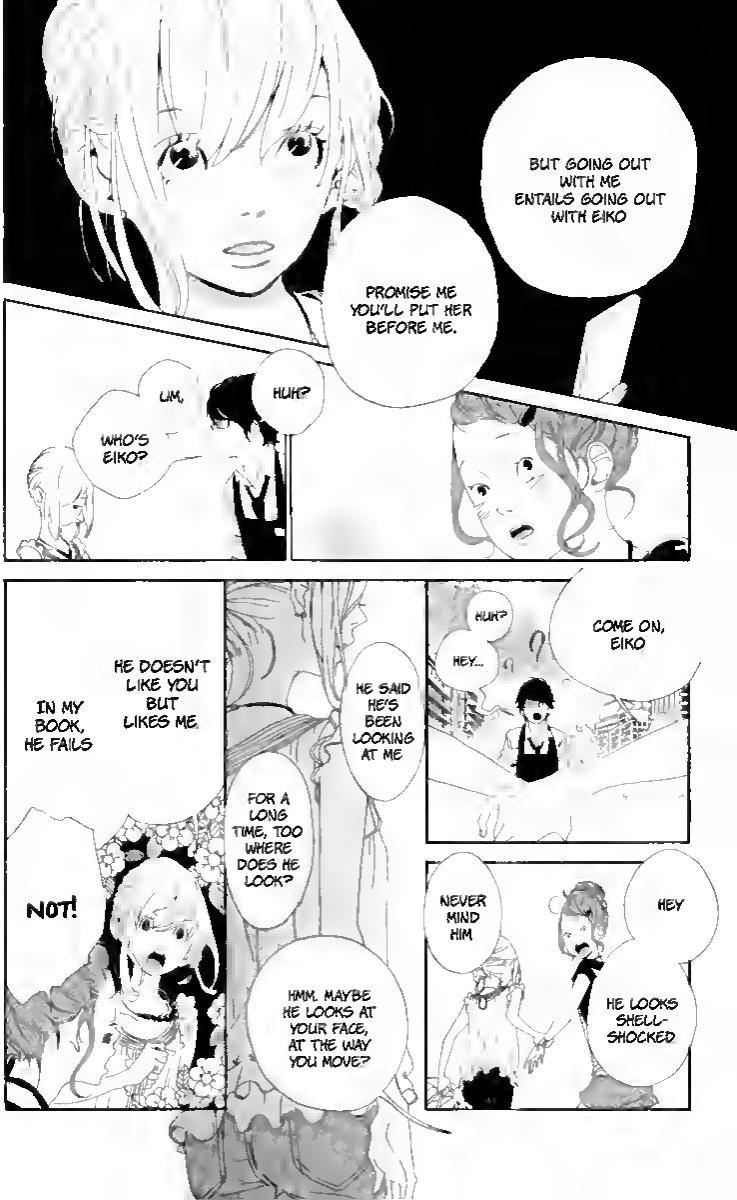
YOU CAN'T HELP WANTING TO DOTE ON HER.
I LOVE YOU, EIKO. ♡
WHOA!
WHY DO I FEEL CHEATED ?
BUT YOU DON'T HATE IT
MIND IF I TAKE A BITE?
MAY I?
MASSIVE
DON'T BE SHY TAKE A BIG BITE
YOU HAVE TO HAVE SOME OF THE EGG.

YOU'RE AN AMAZING PERSON.
WHY?
NO WAY
I'D BE FRIENDLESS FOREVER
I USED TO...
THINK...
I REALLY DID BELIEVE IT...
BE-FORE I MET YOU.

"HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY, HUH, MOE-CHAN?"

"IT'S HARD FOR ME TO BE DIRECT WITH OTHER PEOPLE."

EXCUSE ME.
HUFF
SORRY.
HUFF
COULD WE TALK?
I'VE SEEN YOU...
AROUND THE TRAIN STATION..
FOR A WHILE— FOR A LONG TIME
HE'S ASKING HER OUT
YOU SEEM LIKE A GREAT GIRL
IF YOU'RE NOT DATING ANYONE...
UM, WE CAN START AS FRIENDS, YOU KNOW, EXCHANGE NUMBERS OR SOMETHING?
ALL RIGHT


BUT GOING OUT WITH ME ENTAILS GOING OUT WITH EIKO
PROMISE ME YOU'LL PUT HER BEFORE ME.
HUH?
UM, WHO'S EIKO?
COME ON, EIKO
HUH?
HEY...
NEVER MIND HIM
HEY
HE LOOKS SHELL-SHOCKED
HE SAID HE'S BEEN LOOKING AT ME
FOR A LONG TIME, TOO WHERE DOES HE LOOK?
HMM. MAYBE HE LOOKS AT YOUR FACE, AT THE WAY YOU MOVE?
IN MY BOOK, HE FAILS
HE DOESN'T LIKE YOU BUT LIKES ME
NOT!

NO, I'D HAVE A HUGE CRUSH ON YOU.
AND THEN YOU'D BREAK MY HEART.
I'D GO FOR YOU
I MEAN, I'D FALL FOR YOU, TOO.
PFFT
NO, I WOULDN'T.
MY BEST FRIEND...
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
DO YOU WANT A BOYFRIEND, EIKO?
YOU HAVE A QUESTIONABLE TASTE IN MEN. FOR ONE, YOU LIKE ABE SADAO.*
I WOULDN'T SAY I DON'T
EWW SADAO OVER MIYAGAWA ANY DAY
I LIKE MIYAGAWA DAISUKE** BETTER
SADAO!
MIYA GAWA!
QUESTIONABLE? EXCUSE ME! ABE SADAO ROCKS!
SADAO!
MIYA GAWA!
CAN BE REALLY STUBBORN SOMETIMES.
MIYAGAWA!!

* An actor and musician
** An actor and comedian

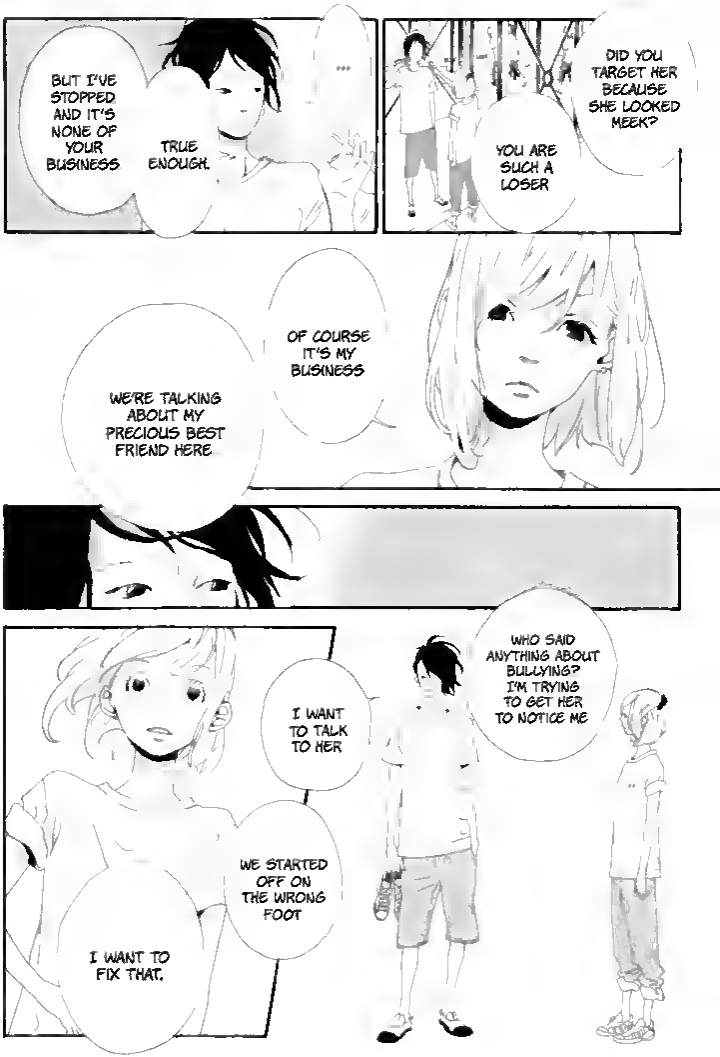
SOME DAY, A GUY WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH EIKO.
BUT..
HE HAS TO LOVE EIKO MORE THAN I DO, OR I WON'T ACCEPT HIM.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS WITH EIKO?

UM, WE'VE PUT IT BEHIND US
HE'S GONE!
GONE!
BUT DIDN'T HE—
HE JUST STOOD NEAR ME
HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! I SWEAR!
NOTHING MUCH
PUT WHAT EXACTLY?!
WOULDN'T TELL ME NO MATTER WHAT.
EIKO...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
NOTHING.

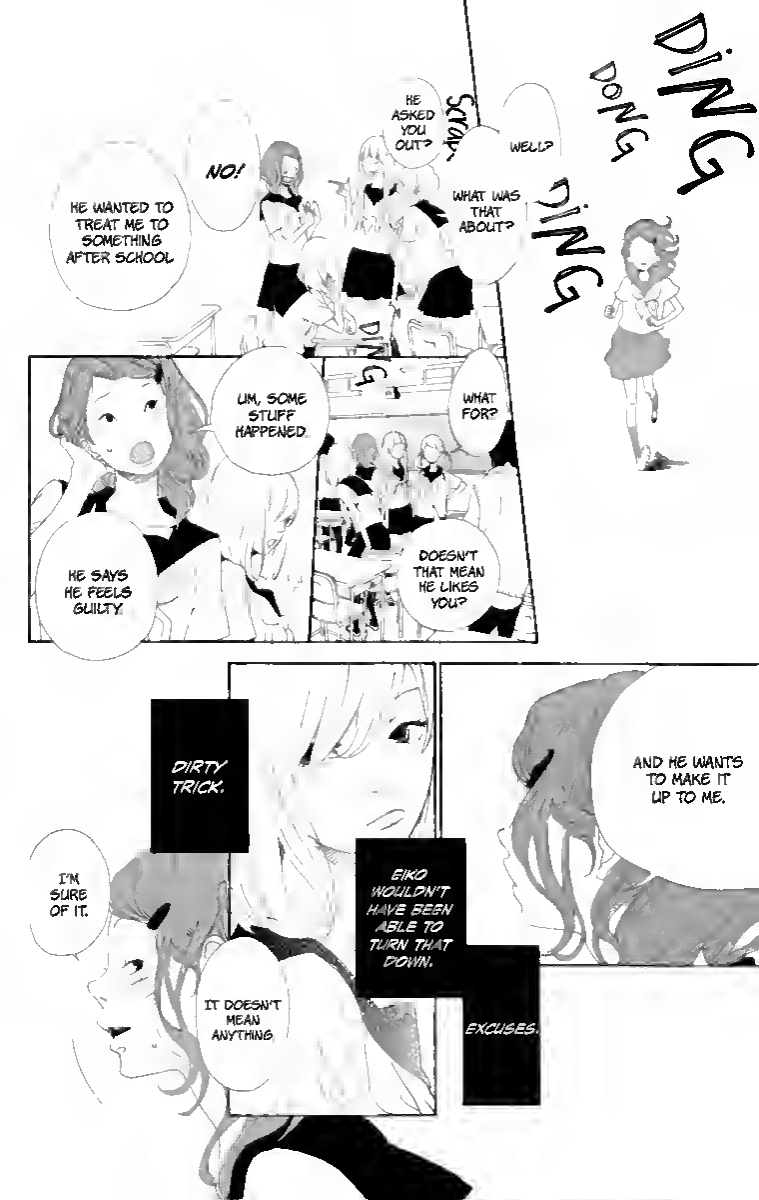
SO...
ARE YOU PICKING ON EIKO AGAIN?
I'M NOT.
BUT...
YOU USED TO
EIKO'S DIFFERENT FROM ME.
SHE DOESN'T FIGHT BACK.
SHE DOESN'T FLIP OUT, EITHER
SHE DOESN'T HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST THE PEOPLE WHO TREAT HER LIKE DIRT


BUT I'VE STOPPED AND IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS
TRUE ENOUGH.
...
YOU ARE SUCH A LOSER
DID YOU TARGET HER BECAUSE SHE LOOKED MEEK?
OF COURSE IT'S MY BUSINESS
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MY PRECIOUS BEST FRIEND HERE
I WANT TO TALK TO HER
WE STARTED OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT
I WANT TO FIX THAT.
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT BULLYING? I'M TRYING TO GET HER TO NOTICE ME
...

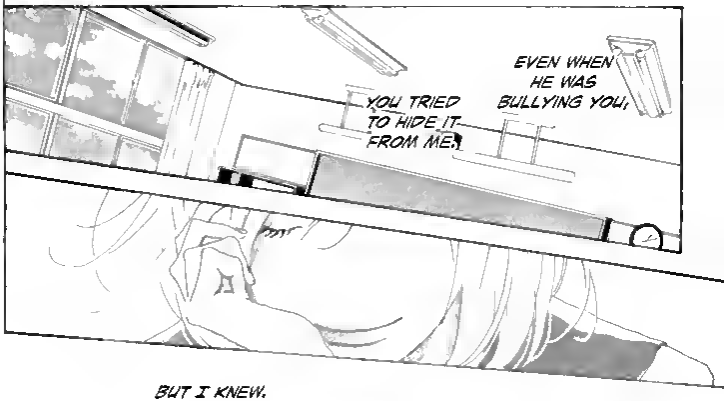
WHAT?
DID HE JUST...
STAY OUT OF MY WAY.
NAKAGAWA
ADMIT...
HE'S INTERESTED IN EIKO?

I KNEW THE DAY WOULD COME
A GUY WHO LIKES EIKO
BUT...
WHAT DOES HE LIKE ABOUT HER?
OH.
ROMANTICALLY?
HE LIKES HER...
OF HER INNOCENCE AND GOOD HEART.
IF HE'S TAKING ADVANTAGE...
DOES HE REALLY APPRECIATE HER GOOD POINTS?
HE'S GOING DOWN.

HUH?
GOT A MINUTE?
HUH?
HUH?
EIKO?!
NOT...
NOT MOE?!

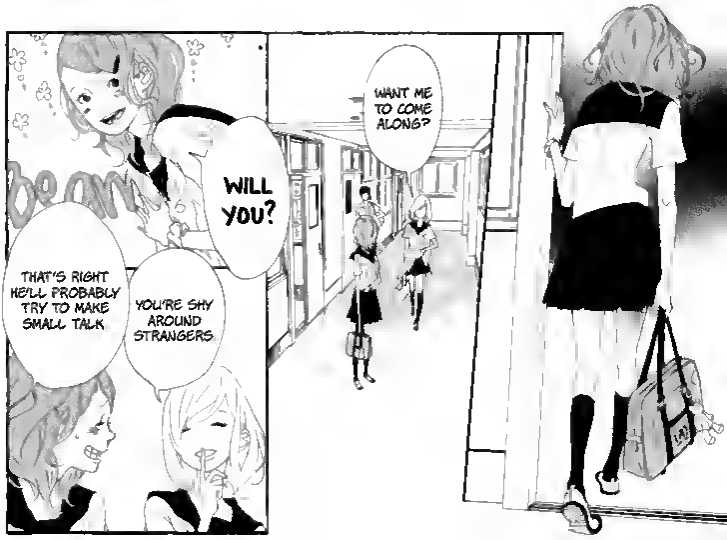

DING DONG DING
WELL?
HE ASKED YOU OUT?
SCRAM.
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
NO!
HE WANTED TO TREAT ME TO SOMETHING AFTER SCHOOL
DING
UM, SOME STUFF HAPPENED.
WHAT FOR?
HE SAYS HE FEELS GUILTY.
DOESN'T THAT MEAN HE LIKES YOU?
AND HE WANTS TO MAKE IT UP TO ME.
DIRTY TRICK.
I'M SURE OF IT.
EIKO WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TURN THAT DOWN.
IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING.
EXCUSES.

IT WAS A COINCIDENCE!
AH!
HE GOT YOUR HAIR IN HIS WATCH ONCE
HE'S THE GUY WHO KEPT BUMPING INTO YOU, RIGHT?
I REMEMBER NOW
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DEFEND HIM.
THAT GUY WAS A JERK TO YOU.
WHAT A WEIRD GUY
OH, OF COURSE
WANTED TO MAKE UP FOR THAT?
HE, LIM,
YOU THOUGHT I'D LOSE IT
DID YOU DO IT...
BECAUSE OF ME?



BUT I KNEW.

ALL OF IT.



I DON'T THINK SO.
HEH HEH
HE'S SURE TO BE HAPPY TO KNOW YOU'RE COMING ALONG.
THERE'S NO LOVE LOST BETWEEN US AFTER ALL

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
UH-
BESIDES, THERE'S NOT A DAY WHEN WE DON'T GO HOME TOGETHER
I'LL PAY FOR MY OWN
WHY NOT?
SHE'S JOINING US?
NOT REALLY
NO PROBLEM, HUH?
LET'S GET GOING THEN, ALL THREE OF US

SMALL (BURGER AND DRINK, À LA CARTE)
HE'S RIGHT, EIKO FEEL FREE TO ORDER THE MOST EXPENSIVE ITEMS ON THE MENU.
DON'T HOLD BACK.
YEAH
IS THAT ALL YOU'RE HAVING?
I'M FINE! I HAVE WHAT I WANTED, HONEST!
GO THE WHOLE COW.
HELP YOURSELF TO DESSERT AND SALAD.
LET'S EAT
BE MY GUEST.

HUH?
WHAT DO YOU WATCH ON TV?
SORRY.
I DON'T HAVE ANY HOBBIES IN PARTICULAR.
HMM.
HE'S MAKING SMALL TALK, ALL RIGHT
HA HA HA HA HA HA
DRAMA SERIES, VARIETY SHOWS, PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING.
UM, NOTHING—
WHAT ABOUT HOBBIES?
OH?
THIS IS PROBABLY...
THE FIRST TIME A GUY'S PUTTING THE MOVES ON YOU.
WHA?
M...?
GOOD LUCK, EIKO.
(The "Mmm, lucky me!" kind.)

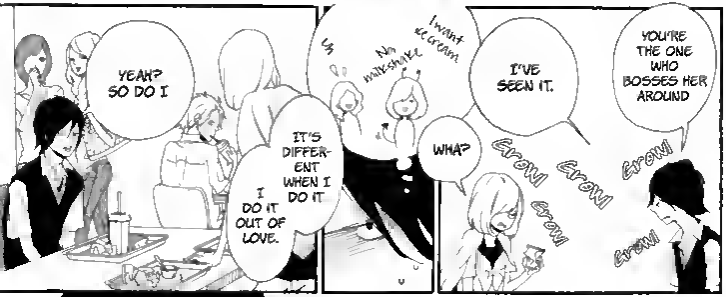
I DON'T HAVE HOBBIES, EITHER.
WHAT KIND OF GUY HE IS.
I'LL FIND OUT...
IN THE MEANTIME,
Mmm, I love fries.
WHEN PEOPLE ASK ABOUT YOUR HOBBIES AND YOU TELL THEM YOU DON'T HAVE ANY,
THEY GO QUIET, LIKE JUST NOW.
SORRY, I'M NOT REALLY TALKATIVE I MUST LOOK STUPID TO YOU
HUH?
AND THE CONVO GOES ON
HE'S SMOOTH.
CAN'T TRUST HIM.
OF COURSE NOT
STUPID?
AH HA HA.

RIGHT ON.
...
IN A WAY
GANDHI?
YOU'RE LIKE GANDHI
SHE IS.
EIKO IS A SAINT
DROP IT, YOU GUYS! YOU KNOW I DON'T TAKE THEM WELL
A MATCH OF COMPLIMENTS?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
HUH?

A WISHY-WASHY ONE AT THAT. THAT'S ALL.
I'M A PUSH-OVER.
I'M NOT A SAINT.
SO YOU WON'T SAY ANYTHING IF I PUSH YOU AROUND?
A PUSHOVER, HUH?
EXACTLY.
NOT EVEN PRICKS
SHE DOESN'T SAY NO TO ANYBODY,
...
LEAVE IT ALL TO ME.
THEN YOU COULD LOOK FOR MY BOYFRIEND!
REALLY? OH!
THAT'S WHY, EIKO,
YOU'RE ONLY ALLOWED TO DATE A GUY I APPROVE OF
TOILET
I'll be back in a few
Excuse me

SCREW YOU
IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO AS HER BEST FRIEND
EIKO'S NOT THE BEST JUDGE OF PEOPLE
SHE THINKS..
EVERYBODY ON THIS PLANET HAS A HEART.

THERE'S NO WAY I'M LETTING AN ASS LIKE YOU BOSS HER AROUND AND HURT HER.
EVEN WHEN IT'S OBVIOUSLY NOT HER FAULT
SHE BLAMES HERSELF
GRU
SH

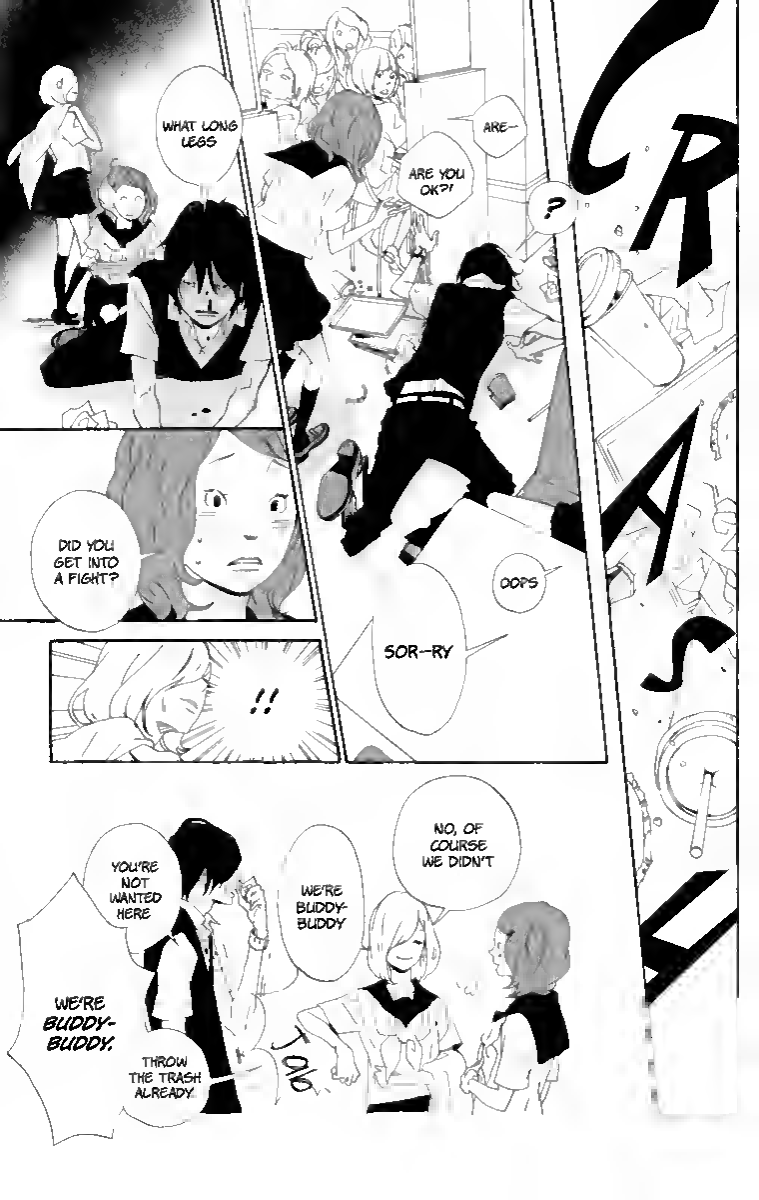

YEAH? SO DO I
IT'S DIFFERENT WHEN I DO IT
I DO IT OUT OF LOVE.
Uh
Nn hatchiet
I want ice cream
WHA?
I'VE SEEN IT.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BOSSES HER AROUND
Erow!
Erow!
Erow!
Erow!
Erow!

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS NOT HURT HER, RIGHT?!
IN THAT CASE,
I DON'T GIVE HER A HARD TIME!
YOU JUST USED IT!
LOVE IS NO EXCUSE TO GIVE HER A HARD TIME

TOILET
WHAT?!
EE
P!
ABSORBED?!
BECAUSE YOU GUYS WERE SO ABSORBED—
HELL, NO
HECK, NO
I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING
I WAS JUST GOING TO THROW THE TRASH AWAY
UM,
I'M SORRY
YOU STOP COPYING ME!
DON'T COPY ME!
IN SYNC?
NOT
NOT
HA HA.
YOU'RE SO IN SYNC

I FEEL LIKE I'M WATCHING A SKIT.
AH HA HA.
ah
ha
ha
CUTE.
YOUR EYES,
AH
THEY..
BECAUSE THEY'RE SMALL.
DIS-APPEAR WHEN YOU LAUGH.

YOU ARE ADORABLE, EIKO
YES, CUTE
HA HA
OH...
UM.
OR AM I MISSING SOMETHING?
IS IT BATTLE OF COMPLIMENTS DAY.
TRIP
I'LL THROW IT AWAY
PASS ME THE TRASH

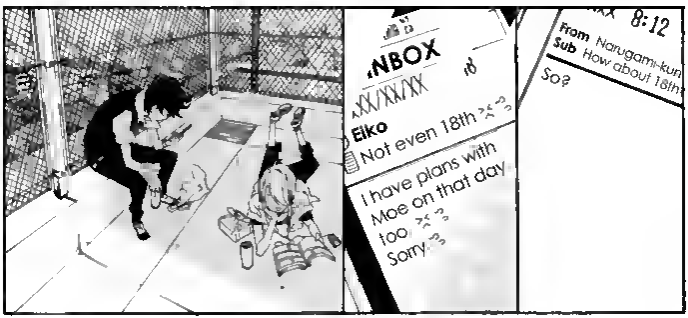

CRASH
WHAT LONG LEGS
ARE--
ARE YOU OK?!
?
DID YOU GET INTO A FIGHT?
OOPS
SOR--RY
!!
YOU'RE NOT WANTED HERE
WE'RE BUDDY-BUDDY
NO, OF COURSE WE DIDN'T
WE'RE BUDDY-BUDDY.
THROW THE TRASH ALREADY
TAP

BYE
THANKS FOR TREATING ME
AH
NO PROB
CAN I HAVE YOUR NUMBER?
I HAD A GREAT TIME TODAY
AND CAN WE DO THIS AGAIN?
IS THAT OK?
WHY ARE YOU ASKING HER?

I DON'T SEE WHY NOT
I'M GUESSING
NARUGAMI-KUN HAS A THING..
FOR YOU.
HE ASKED FOR *YOUR* NUMBER
I WAS SO SHOCKED, I NEARLY FELL OVER.
MAYBE HE COULDN'T ASK YOU OUT DIRECTLY
JUST HOW INSECURE ARE YOU?

YOU'RE SO DENSE. I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.



October 17
When *are* you free?
WHAT THE HELL?! YOU EXPECT ME TO WAIT THREE MONTHS?!
ARE YOU GLUED TO THE HIP OR SOMETHING?!
AND YOUR TEXTS ARE LITTERED WITH SWEAT DROPS!
YU
ALL RIGHT.
YOU CAN JOIN US THIS SUNDAY
WE'RE GOING SHOPPING.
NOT TOO LATE FOR YOUR SISTER'S BIRTHDAY, ARE WE?
SHE KNOWS

I'm sorry
FINE, COUNT ME IN
HE'S COMING?
HEH.
HE'S MAN ENOUGH, I GUESS
YEAH.
MAYBE HE'S JUST UNFLAPPABLE.
THAT'S THE EXTENT...
OF HIS FEELINGS FOR HER?

IS SHE ALWAYS LATE?
LIKE ONE HOUR LATE?
JUST US TWO?
HUH?
SHE'S NOT HERE YET.
NO! NOT PARTICULARLY
SHE...
MAY LOOK BOSSY, BUT SHE REALLY ISN'T!
SOMETIMES, I'M THE ONE WHO'S LATE
YEAH?
WELL, IF SHE'S AN HOUR LATE, SO BE IT.
HOW COME YOU ONLY HAVE A DAY TO YOURSELF THREE MONTHS FROM NOW?
ARE YOU THAT IN SEPARABLE?
SIT DOWN. LET'S TALK.
OH
OK
NO, WE DON'T.
DON'T YOU GET SICK OF EACH OTHER?
WE HAVE LOTS OF FUN.

SURE IT'S FUN HANGING OUT WITH YOUR FRIEND,
BUT DATING IS FUN, TOO, YOU KNOW?
LET US COMPLETE AS THE P
DON'T LAUGH.
AH HA HA.
I JUST—
IS THERE A GUY YOU'RE CRUSHING ON?
FUN
FUN
FUN
NO, I DON'T THINK SO
WAIT
I.
OH, NO
I'VE NEVER HAD A CRUSH.
SO WHAT?
IT'S OK?
IT'S FINE
GREAT!
ABSOLUTELY FINE BY ME.

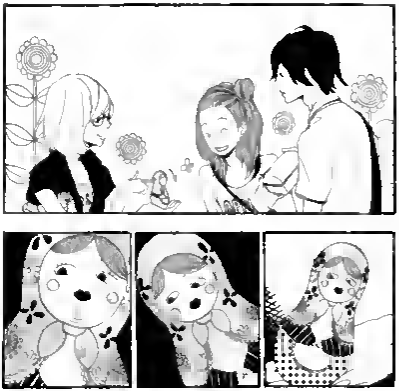
CUTE REACTION.
I RAN LATE OOPS
I GET FLUS-TERED
BUT YOU KNOW ME.
HE COMPLI-MENTED ME!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG.
IF ONLY YOU WERE TOO SICK TO GO OUT. OOPS
WHAT DID YOU DO?
WHAT DID YOU DO TO EIKO?
TSK

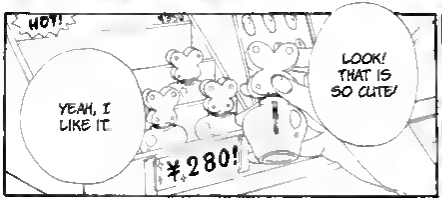
UM..
GET ALONG, HUH?
DON'T REALLY..
YOU GUYS
UM..
WHAT?
IF I WAS SICK, YOU COULD FORGET ABOUT TODAY
'CAUSE EIKO WOULD WANT TO CHECK UP ON ME
...
Sweat
WELL ...
UM..
THIS GUY...
LET'S NOT...
MAKE HER WORRY
HEY

YOU WANT TO GET SOMETHING FOR YOUR SISTER, DON'T YOU?
YEAH
THAT'S RIGHT
...
HUH?
BEATS ME
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
WHAT WOULD SHE LIKE?
ME? I WONDER
...LIKES EIKO...
FOR REAL.
WE'RE GOOD NO WORRIES
SAY, WHERE'RE WE GOING?
EIKO...
IS HAVING A NORMAL CONVERSATION WITH HIM.
JUST LIKE THAT? ARE YOU SURE?
OK, THEN ACCESSORIES IT IS.
ACCESSORIES, I GUESS

YOU'RE KIND OF LIKE MOE, NARUGAMI-KUN
YOU DON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH
HUH?
WHAT?
SAY THAT AGAIN
UH,
NARUGAMI-KUN YOU--
IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL ME?
NARUGAMI-KUN?
FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD YOU SAY IT
Let us connect you to the future.
CAN I CALL YOU EIKO?
NOPE
SO THEN,
DO..
DO YOU MIND?!

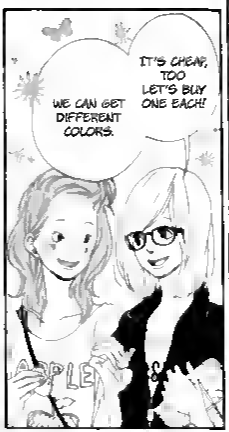
SAY WHAT?
CALL HER SAKAMOTO-SAN.
UM, CALL ME WHAT YOU LIKE! IT'S OK!
SAKAMOTO-SAN...
ON A FIRST-NAME BASIS ALREADY?
WHICH ONE IS GOOD?
UM, MAYBE THIS ONE
YOU LIKE THIS KIND OF THING?
UH, IT'S A SAFE BET


WHAT ABOUT THIS?


HEY!
LOOK! THAT IS SO CUTE!
YEAH, I LIKE IT.
¥280!

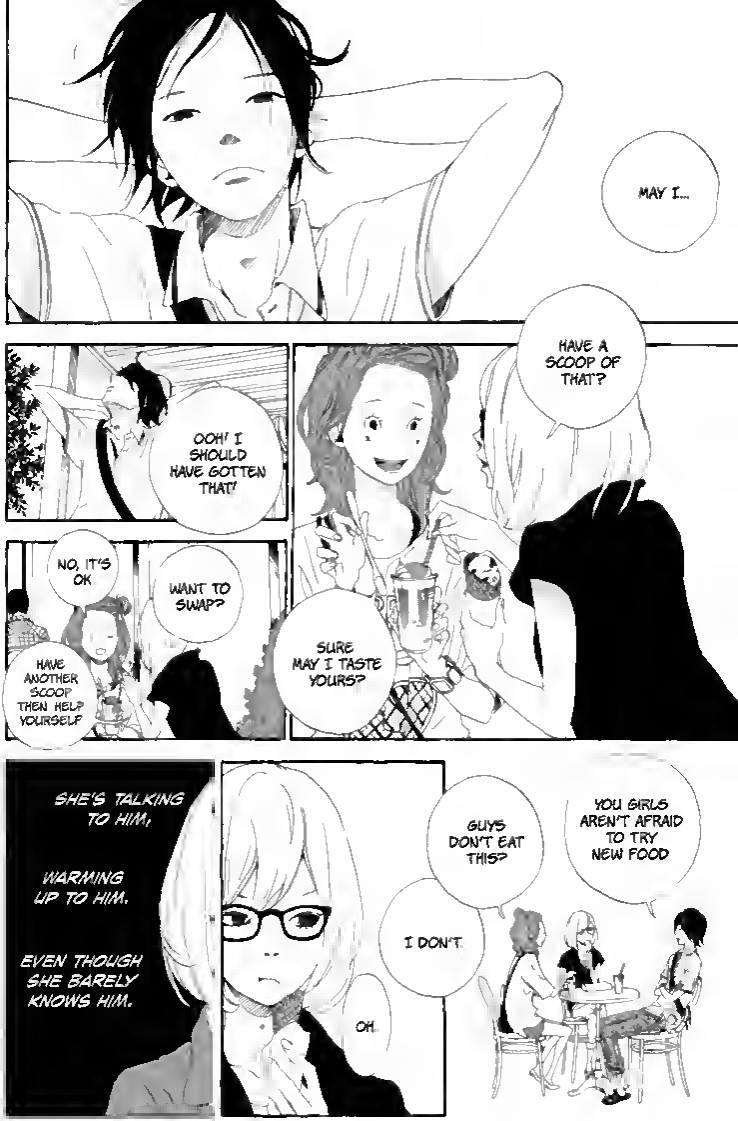
So cute!

Cash desk
HMM.
I'LL GET THE EXACT SAME COLOR, THEN.
FOR YOUR SISTER?


IT'S CHEAP, TOO LET'S BUY ONE EACH!
WE CAN GET DIFFERENT COLORS.
APPLE

...
GET THIS ONE.

I'LL GO LOOK FOR A TABLE
MAYBE WE'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK UPSTAIRS
WHOA. THE PLACE IS PACKED
NARUGAMI-KUN IS PRACTICAL, ISN'T HE?
IT'S A FULL HOUSE
NO LUCK
AND IT'S NOT ME HE'S TRYING TO IMPRESS, IT'S YOU.
I DON'T MIND EATING OUTSIDE
AH HA HA
HE'S TRYING TO EARN POINTS IN HIS FAVOR, I GUESS.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE LAUGHING.


MAY I...
HAVE A SCOOP OF THAT?
OOH! I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN THAT!
NO, IT'S OK
WANT TO SWAP?
SURE MAY I TASTE YOURS?
HAVE ANOTHER SCOOP THEN HELP YOURSELF
SHE'S TALKING TO HIM.
WARMING UP TO HIM.
EVEN THOUGH SHE BARELY KNOWS HIM.
OH
I DON'T
GUYS DON'T EAT THIS?
YOU GIRLS AREN'T AFRAID TO TRY NEW FOOD

SHOULD I...
TEST HIM?
I'M—
I'M SO SORRY!
HOW WILL...
YOU REACT?
I'M SO, SO, SO SORRY!

I'M...
SORRY.

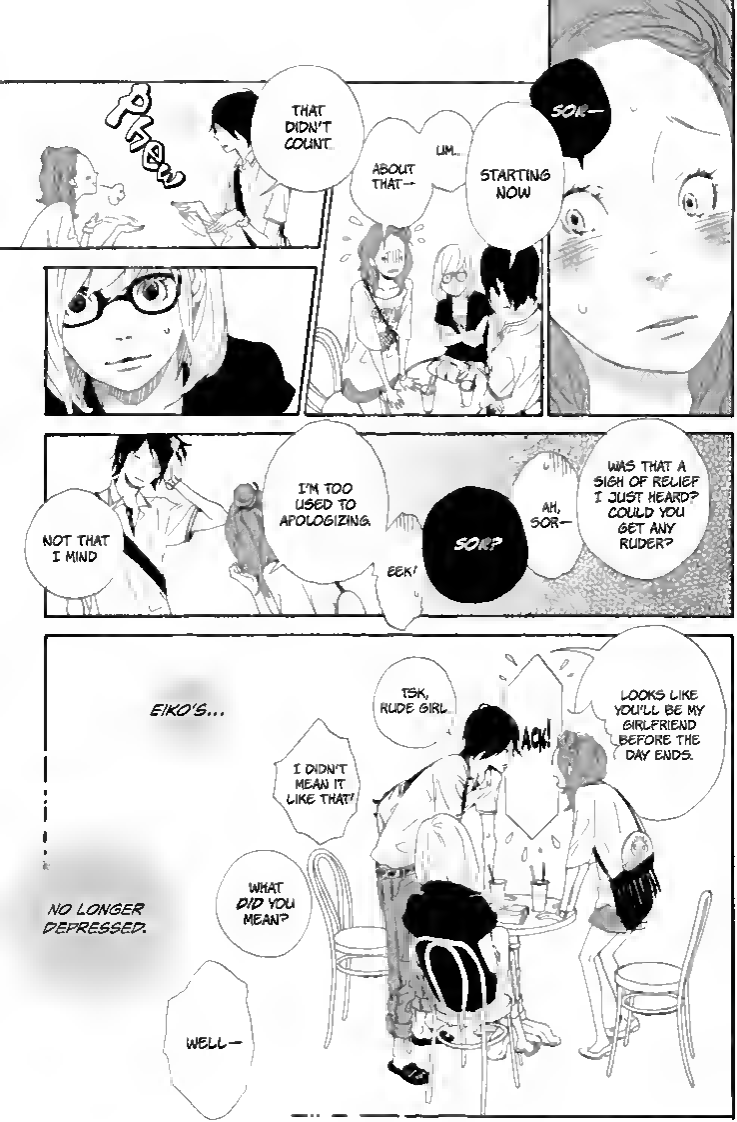
BUT--
THIS CAN BE WASHED OFF.
IT'S OK.

STOP APOLOGIZING.
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
UM, OK.

I'LL MAKE YOU MY GIRLFRIEND.
THE NEXT TIME YOU SAY SORRY,
WHAT?!
"WHAT"?
ARE YOU INSULTING ME?

YOU MADE EIKO DEPRESSED.

I AM REALLY SORRY
I ALREADY TOLD YOU, STOP APOLOGIZING.


PHEW
THAT DIDN'T COUNT.
UM... ABOUT THAT—
STARTING NOW
SOR—
WAS THAT A SIGH OF RELIEF I JUST HEARD? COULD YOU GET ANY RUDER?
AH, SOR—
SOR?
EEK!
I'M TOO USED TO APOLOGIZING.
NOT THAT I MIND
EIKO'S...
NO LONGER DEPRESSED.
TSK, RUDE GIRL.
ACK!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL BE MY GIRLFRIEND BEFORE THE DAY ENDS.
I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT!
WHAT DID YOU MEAN?
WELL—

SHE SEEMS...
TO BE ENJOYING HERSELF.
THE POPULAR GIRL
2016 Issue
THE UNPOPULAR GIRL
Feature
What does the popular girl keep that other girls don't?
Make guys want you!
The way she looks at me with those huge eyes.
There's something so irresistibly adorable about a girl who is true to herself.
I'm drawn to her flawless skin and different colors.
These long legs are such a turn-on.
I love to see her smile.
Manga Tips
WHOA.
I'M THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF THE POPULAR GIRL
THANKS FOR TODAY.
YOU...
DID IT ON PURPOSE.

HUH?
YEAH, I DO.
WHY DO YOU ASK?
RATTLE
EIKO, DO YOU HAVE FUN WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER?
RATTLE
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WANTED A BOYFRIEND.

UH,
A BOY-FRIEND?
I'M HAPPY THE WAY THINGS ARE!
I COULDN'T ASK FOR MORE!
THE POPULAR
FINDING A GREAT FRIEND..
IS JUST AS HARD AS FINDING A BOYFRIEND.
I KNOW.
IT'S GOOD TO KNOW YOU'RE HAPPY
I KNOW THAT, EIKO.

BUT A BOYFRIEND IS THE ONE THING I CAN'T GIVE YOU.

I CAN'T GIVE YOU THE PLEASURE OF BEING WITH A BOYFRIEND.

I CAN'T GIVE YOU THE BLISS BROUGHT ON BY MARRIAGE OR BY CHILDBIRTH.

THOSE JOYS CAN NEVER BE MINE TO GIVE.

EIKO,

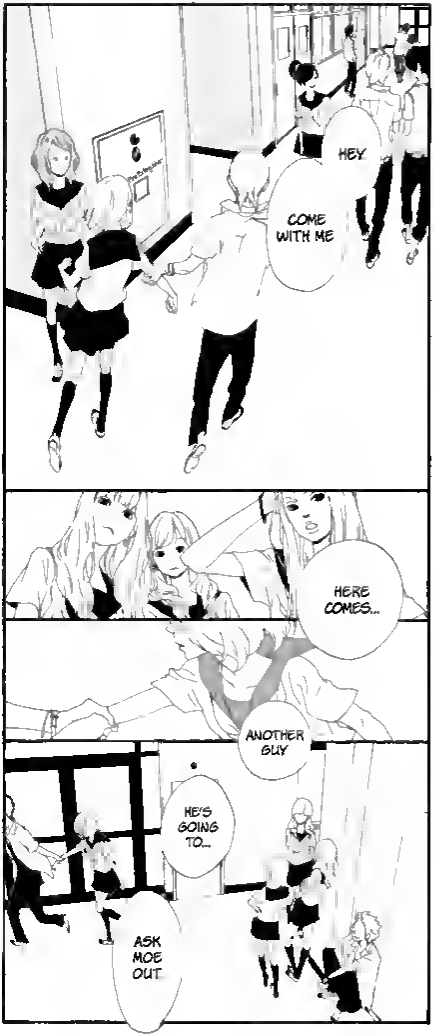
I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY,

MORE THAN ANYBODY ELSE IN THIS WORLD.

I WANT TO SEE YOU SMILE.

I WANT TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.

I DON'T EVER WANT TO SEE YOU SAD OR CRY.



"MY FRIEND WILL GET A BOY-FRIEND."

(PROBABLY.)

HERE'S THE DEAL,
FROM THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU,
I KNEW I WANTED YOU,
AND I DECIDED..
I WOULD HAVE YOU.
MY POINT IS,
BE MY GIRL?
SURE
HERE ARE MY TERMS DATING ME MEANS SHARING ME WITH EIKO
?
SHE ALWAYS COMES FIRST INTO THIS EQUATION
YES.
YOU SEE,
I'M A PROPONENT OF THE "SISTERS BEFORE MISTERS" RULE
CHRISTMAS AND VALENTINE'S DAY ARE RESERVED FOR HER ME DATING YOU WILL NOT CHANGE THAT
ALL THESE TERMS...
THE MINUTE SHE STARTS FEELING LEFT OUT, OUR RELATIONSHIP IS OVER

I CAME UP WITH THEM...
BECAUSE I KNEW I'D FEEL LOST IF EIKO GOT A BOYFRIEND.

WHAT?
I DIDN'T WANT HER TO EXPERIENCE THE LONELINESS I WOULD SURELY FEEL IF OUR ROLES WERE REVERSED. THAT'S ALL.
I DON'T EXPECT HER TO DO THE SAME FOR ME WHEN HER TURN COMES, THOUGH.
I WAS ONLY PUTTING MYSELF IN HER SHOES.
I DON'T CATCH YOUR DRIFT
WHO THE HELL'S EIKO?
SHE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.

163cm
EVERY ONE OF YOU
SMALL
...
Life Lesson!
WH-
WHAT THE HELL, BITCH?!
JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE A PRETTY FACE—
AND A HOT BODY—
DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH INSULTING US MEN!

!!
LOOK HERE
YOUR PRETTY FACE AIN'T GOING TO SAVE YOU, YA HEAR ME?
SENSEI!

WANT ME
TO GO GET ONE?
Dictionary of Archaic Words
Dictionary of
PFFT
HE SAID "PRETTY FACE" THREE TIMES.
PRICE-LESS
PRETTY FACE!
DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK.
I HAVE... ZERO EXPERIENCE IN BRAWLING.
NAH
YOU NOT GOING TO STEP IN YOURSELF?
"MOE-CHAN!"
WILL EVER UNDER-STAND
BUT WOW
YOU REALLY DO TELL GUYS...
TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR BEST FRIEND FIRST.
NO-BODY

...JUST HOW MUCH...
EIKO MEANS TO ME.
FOR ME,
"MOE?"
"SHE'S PRETTY AND ALL, BUT..."
"SHE'S HORRIBLE."
FINDING ONE TRUE FRIEND..
WAS A LOT HARDER THAN FINDING A HUNDRED BOYFRIENDS.
"NO, NO, NO. HER LOOKS ARE THE ONLY THING GOING FOR HER."
"BUT HER PERSONALITY STINKS."
"SHE'S AN EYE CANDY, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT."

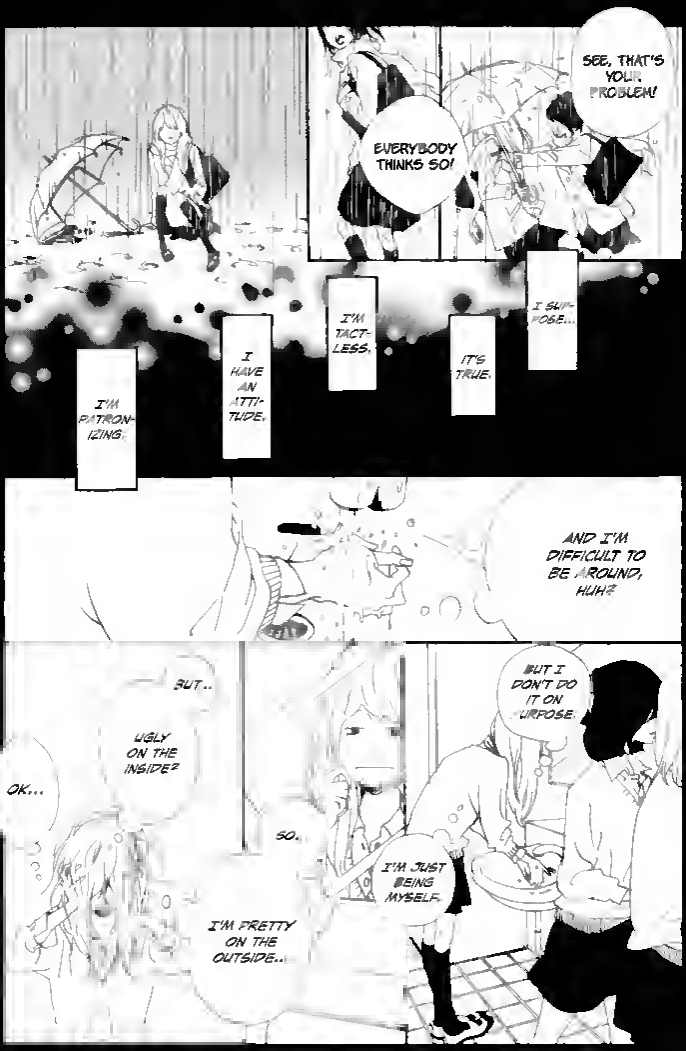
THAT WAS HARSH, MOE.
?
WHO ARE YOU?
I HAD A GREAT TIME, MOE-CHAN, DID YOU?
ACTUALLY... YES.
YOU'RE SO PRETTY, MOE.
LUCKY YOU! YOU MUST BE POPULAR WITH THE GUYS
NOT REALLY.
DIDN'T HAVE TO PUT IT THAT WAY.
SHOW-OFF.
WHOA.
I WAS ONLY ANSWERING YOUR QUESTION.
HAVE THEY ASKED YOU OUT ON DATES? TELL YOU THEY LIKE YOU?
1-3

REALLY?
HE'S THE MOST POPULAR GUY IN THIRD YEAR—AND IN THE ENTIRE SCHOOL
OH, MY GOSH MOE-CHAN!
SURE
COME CHILL OUT WITH ME AFTER SCHOOL
UPA CATCHER
YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
HEH HEH
HOLY COW, YOSSHI! THAT'S A CUTE CHICK YOU'VE GOT THERE

WHAT?
IT TURNS ME OFF.
I'M NOT
I'M JUST CHILLING OUT WITH HIM BECAUSE HE ASKED ME TO
HEY. CAN YOU DO ME A FAVOR?
JUST DON'T TALK, ALL RIGHT?
IF I TURN YOU OFF,
WHY ARE YOU WASTING YOUR TIME WITH ME?
HEY, NOW.
YOU'RE MY TYPE OF GIRL.
YOU'R LOOKS, ANYWAY. YOUR ATTITUDE COULD USE SOME FIXING.
OK, OK.
I GIVE UP.
YOU COULD JUST KEEP QUIET... AROUND MY FRIENDS
...
I'M GOING HOME

THERE ARE PLENTY OTHER FISH IN THE SEA.
ENOUGH ALREADY
HE'S NOT WORTH CRYING OVER
WAAAAH!
THAT'S RIGHT
THERE ARE OTHER FISH IN THE SEA.
PATRONIZING ME?
ARE YOU...
I LIKE HIM SO MUCH, AND...

WORK IN PAIRS.
I'LL PAIR UP WITH YOU, MOE-CHAN.
MOE-CHAN, LET'S GO TO THE BATHROOM.
YOU'RE INTERESTING, MOE-CHAN.
I TRIED SO HARD TO PUT UP WITH YOU,
I REALLY DID.
BUT I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE IT'S TOO PAINFUL
I'M SORRY.
I HAD NO IDEA...
YOU HAD TO PUT UP WITH ME


SEE, THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM!
EVERYBODY THINKS SO!
I SUPPOSE..
IT'S TRUE.
I'M TACTLESS.
I HAVE AN ATTITUDE.
I'M PATRONIZING.
AND I'M DIFFICULT TO BE AROUND, HUH?
BUT I DON'T DO IT ON PURPOSE.
I'M JUST BEING MYSELF.
SO..
I'M PRETTY ON THE OUTSIDE..
BUT..
UGLY ON THE INSIDE?
OK...

BUMP
First Year
EIKO SAT NEXT TO ME AND WE BECAME FRIENDS.
I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE IT.
THAT'S HOW OTHER PEOPLE SEE ME, HUH?
SOME-HOW.
OOPS!
I'M SORRY.
IT'S OK
OH I GUESS NOT
SORRY
NOBODY OWES ANYBODY AN APOLOGY
SHE PROBABLY THINKS I'M RUDE, TOO
WE BOTH BUMPED INTO EACH OTHER

EXCUSE ME.
YOU DIDN'T GIVE ME ENOUGH CHANGE.
HUH?
WH-T-EVER.
HOW MUCH?
FIFTY YEN...
SL
9M
...
STINKER
...
IT WAS NOTH-ING!
THAT SCARED ME
I THINK SHE HEARD WHAT YOU SAID, MOE-CHAN.
I JUST SAID WHAT I THOUGHT
...
AH.
I'M TOO BRUTALLY HONEST FOR MY OWN GOOD, AREN'T I?

SEE THAT GIRL?
HEY
THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT YOU.
I DON'T APPRECIATE BEING COMPLIMENTED ON MY LOOKS
SHE'S A REAL LOOKER
YEAH
UH-OH.
DID THAT COME OFF AS MEAN?
UM, WHAT MAKES YOU...
SAY THAT?

YOU HAVE FEELINGS, TOO
OF COURSE
AH
THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT WHAT'S UNDERNEATH
I FEEL LIKE TELLING THEM TO OGLE AT CG GIRLS INSTEAD
THEY LIKE THE WAY I LOOK
Monthly Game Girls
May Issue
YOU WANT OTHERS TO SEE WHO YOU ARE INSIDE
BUT CG GIRLS?
BUT SHE PROBABLY..
JUST TOLERATES ME.
SHE'S ALL RIGHT.
EASY TO TALK TO.
MOE-CHAN, YOU SAY SOME DEEP THINGS.

EVEN IF SHE CAN'T STAND ME,
SHE WOULDN'T SAY IT.
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN
THAT EIKO..
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
WHAT A GOODY-GOODY.

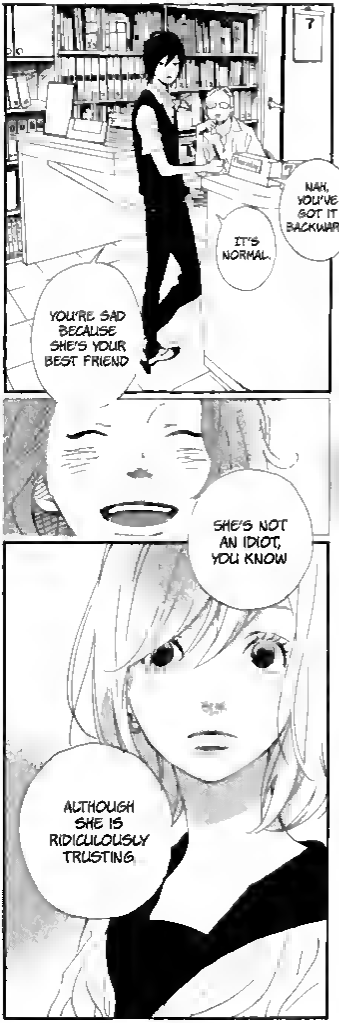
AS IF SHE ISN'T THERE.
DISSING HER...
LIKE YOU GUYS ARE ANY BETTER,
ALL MY EFFORT: DASHED. THERE'S JUST NO HIDING MY EVIL, MEAN SELF
IT'S OVER.
NOW I'VE DONE IT.
OH, NO.
REALLY ?
WELL, IT'S HARD FOR ME TO BE DIRECT WITH OTHER PEOPLE.
IT'S OK?
HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY, HUH, MOE-CHAN?
OH.

IT'S OK TO BE ME?
YOU KNOW, EIKO,
I'VE THOUGHT LONG AND HARD ABOUT THIS.
EVEN I...
HAVE FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS.
BEING NATURALLY PRETTY HAS ITS ADVANTAGES.
NO NEED FOR PLASTIC SURGERIES AND ALL THAT
AH HA HA. I GUESS
BRACES ALONE COST AN ARM AND A LEG.
I LOVE YOU, EIKO.
KUH?!
WHY?
THAT IS TOTALLY RANDOM

"YOU'RE A WASTE OF A PRETTY FACE"
"YOU THINK YOU'RE SO PRETTY?"
IT'S ALL ABOUT HOW I LOOK.
GUYS DON'T SEE ME BEYOND THAT.
SERIOUSLY!
SO DAMNED SUPERFICIAL!
ALL OF THEM!
SO SELF-ABSORBED,
POOR TSUCHIDA GOT THE BRUNT OF HER TRAUMA.
THOUGH HE'S A NICE GUY.
Mr-hmm

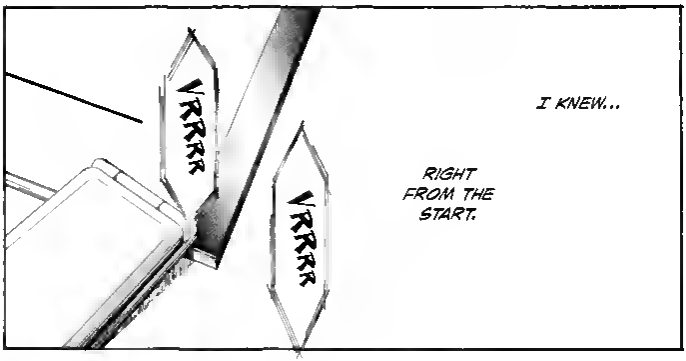
EVER SINCE I STARTED HANGING AROUND EIKO,
I'VE MADE MORE GIRL FRIENDS.
NOW, WHEN I TURN GUYS DOWN,
THEY DON'T CALL ME SNOBBY, THEY CALL ME PLAIN WEIRD.
I DO FEEL BAD ABOUT IT, THOUGH.
BUT EIKO SAYS..
LIFE HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER
I MENTION EIKO...
EVERY TIME I SAY NO TO A GUY
SO SOME OF THEM HAVE TAKEN TO BASH HER
GUYS CAN BE AWFULLY STUPID
YEAH, YEAH I WAS MEAN TO HER. SORRY.
YOU'RE A WEIRDO
HMM
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I HAVE YOU.

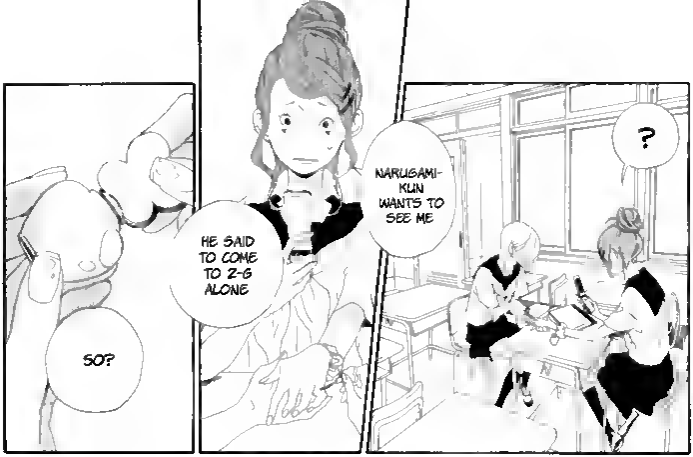
CONGRATS
YOU GOT OVER YOUR TRAUMA.
AND YOU HAVE A GOOD FRIEND.
YOU IRRITATE ME
WHY?
ANYWAY,
I'M THINKING OF ASKING HER OUT
?
SURE.
GO AHEAD
"GO AHEAD"?
THAT WAS A HEADS-UP
I WASN'T ASKING FOR YOUR PERMISSION
'CAUSE ACCORDING TO HER YOU'RE HER BEST FRIEND
BEST FRIEND, HUH?


7
NAH, YOU'VE GOT IT BACKWARD
IT'S NORMAL.
YOU'RE SAD BECAUSE SHE'S YOUR BEST FRIEND
SHE'S NOT AN IDIOT, YOU KNOW
ALTHOUGH SHE IS RIDICULOUSLY TRUSTING
I CAN'T HONESTLY SAY I'M HAPPY MY BEST FRIEND IS GETTING A BOYFRIEND
IT'S TRUE WHAT EVERYBODY SAYS I AM MEAN.

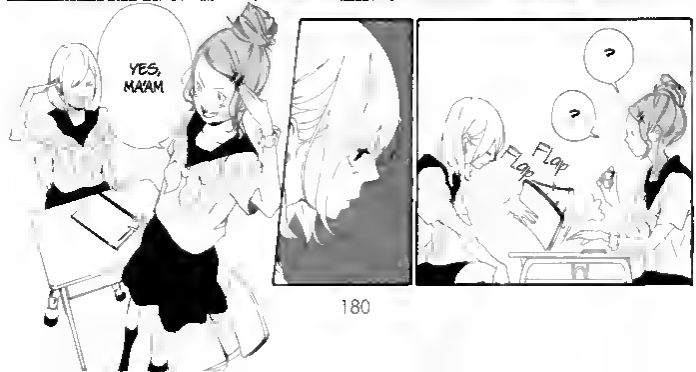
THAT MEANS HE KNOWS WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN PEOPLE.

I WAS VAGUELY AWARE OF THAT.



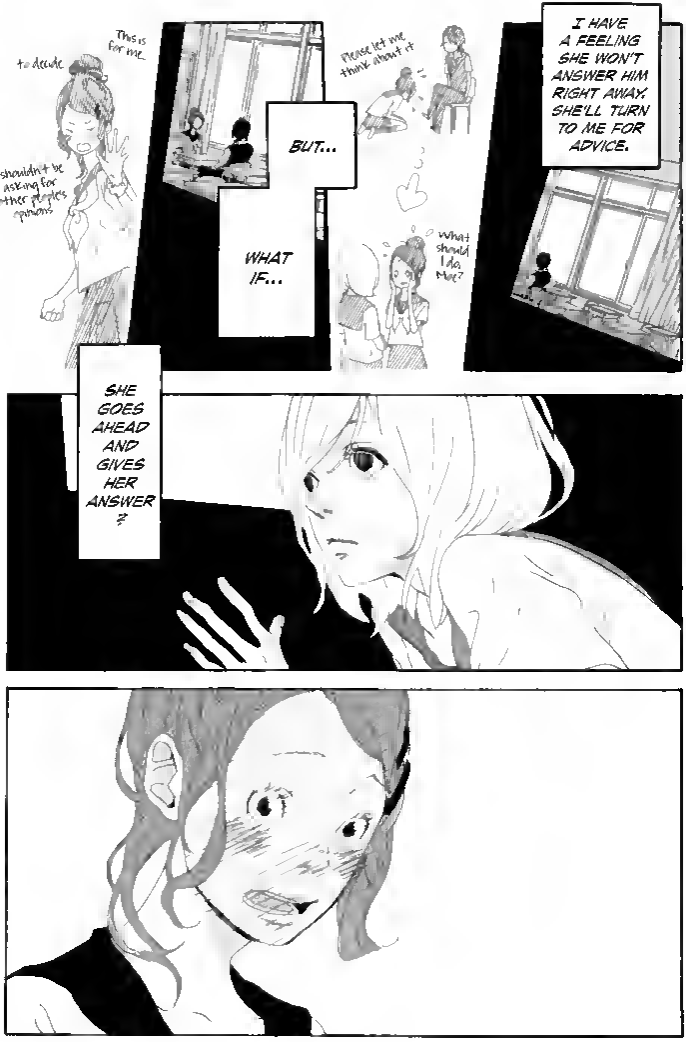

?
NARUSAMI-KUN WANTS TO SEE ME
HE SAID TO COME TO Z-6 ALONE
SO?

GO AND SEE HIM.
ON YOUR OWN


YES, MA'AM
?
?
Flop
Flop

...
2-G
IT WON'T HURT...
FOR ME TO SPY ON THEM.

AS HER BEST FRIEND,
I CAN DO THAT, RIGHT?
2-G
I WONDER HOW EIKO WILL REACT.
WILL SHE ACCEPT?


I HAVE A FEELING SHE WON'T ANSWER HIM RIGHT AWAY. SHE'LL TURN TO ME FOR ADVICE.
Please let me think about it
This is for me.
to decide
I shouldn't be asking for other people's opinions
BUT...
WHAT IF...
what should I do, Mei?
SHE GOES AHEAD AND GIVES HER ANSWER?

DO YOU HATE HAVING ME AROUND?
THAT WAS QUICK!
HE DID IT.
EIKO'S SHOCKED
WHAT NOW?
EMBARRASSED
YOU'RE FUN TO BE AROUND
NO.
YOU'RE FUN.
UM.
OK.

BUT DATING ME...
MEANS SPENDING TIME WITH MOE.
I'LL GO OUT WITH YOU IF YOU PROMISE TO BE GOOD TO HER, TOO!
NO, EIKO...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT.
I SAY IT BECAUSE I WANT TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU.
IT'S MY OWN SELFISH MANTRA.
WHOA. YOU CAN BE DEMANDING WHEN YOU WANT TO.

Heck, no, Eiko!
RATTLE

DIDN'T SHE TELL ME TO COME ON MY OWN?
MOE?!
Thump
Thump
Thump
HUH?
Thump
Thump
Thump
SHE WAS HERE

YOUR BOYFRIEND SHOULD PUT YOU ABOVE EVERYTHING,
EVEN ME— ESPECIALLY ME!
HE'D BETTER, OR I WON'T APPROVE!

TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER!
YOU'RE CONTRADICTING YOURSELF!
I WANT YOU..
TO BE APPRECIATED, TOO!
HELLO?
I'M POURING MY HEART OUT HERE,
IN CASE YOU FORGOT

...
FINE WE CAN START AS FRIENDS
SHE...
CAN WALK HOME WITH US.
YOU'RE A REALLY NICE GUY, NARUGAMI-KUN
I'M NOT.
I DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE, ANYWAY,
DO I?

DAMN YOU FOR MESSING THINGS UP
OH, COME ON. SHE THINKS YOU'RE NICE. SHE SAID SO
THAT'S AN UPGRADE FOR YOU.
YOU KNOW WHAT?
Mod

WE GUYS CAN TOO BE DESPERATE...
WHEN IT COMES TO GIRLS WE LIKE, MORE OFTEN THAN YOU THINK.
SOMETIMES, WE SLIP AND SAY THINGS WE DON'T MEAN.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU SIMPLE CREATURES
DEEP GRUDGE THERE
YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK, TSUCHIDA
YES, SOME OF US ARE ASSHOLES
WELL, A LOT OF US
TOO BAD I'VE WON.
WON WHAT?
Thunk
Thunk
Thunk
Thunk

...
THE TITLE OF EIKO'S FAVORITE PERSON
OH, AND...
DATING HER REALLY DOES MEAN DATING ME,
IN A WAY
I'LL BE HER MAID OF HONOR, TOO
I'M STICKING WITH HER FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES
SHE'LL GO TO ME FOR ADVICE ON HER LOVE LIFE
I MAY HAVE LOST THIS ROUND,
BUT I'M GOING TO TURN THE TABLES ON YOU

《 The End 》

友だちの話
THE SECRET OF FRIENDSHIP
山川あいじ × 河原和音
THIS IS THE STORY ABOUT
TWO PAIRS OF FRIENDS
WHAT MAKES THEIR RELATIONSHIP SPECIAL
YOU CAN FIND THE SECRET
THEIR FRIENDSHIP
MARGARET COMICS
YAMAKAWA Aiji's Works
Chouchou ni Naru
Futanbotchi
Namakemono to Haru
Anmenai
Renren
Chocolate Underground
Tomodachi no Hanashi
Cover Art: Yamakawa Aiji
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MARGARET COMICS
Tomodachi no Hanashi
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12-A
Eiko is something of a plain Jane and a doormat while her best friend Moe is a head-turning beauty
Despite their differences, their friendship is as strong as ever
Guys are always asking Moe out, but her answer is invariably "Only if you promise to put Eiko before me."
[Contents]
Hi. I'm the artist.
I'm sure I have plenty of room for improvement, but thank you so much for reading. I'd also like to thank everybody at the editorial department, the designer, and finally, Kawahara-sensei
This story has claimed a special spot in my heart
YAMAKAWA Aiji
This is the first time I've ever plotted a manga without drawing it.
Yamakawa-san has magically turned my sloppy storyboards into a wonderful manga.
I'm so happy with the end-product, I keep going back to reread it.
KAWAHARA Kazune

TOMODACHI NO HANASHI

THE SECRET OF FRIENDSHIP

YAMAKAWA Aiji KAWAHARA Kazune

New

45p

SONOKARE, (CHIRA) BEMASU

Love is a battlefield, and our heroine is sneaking her way to the forefront.

After their sensational debut, legendary duo hits Kawahara Kazune!

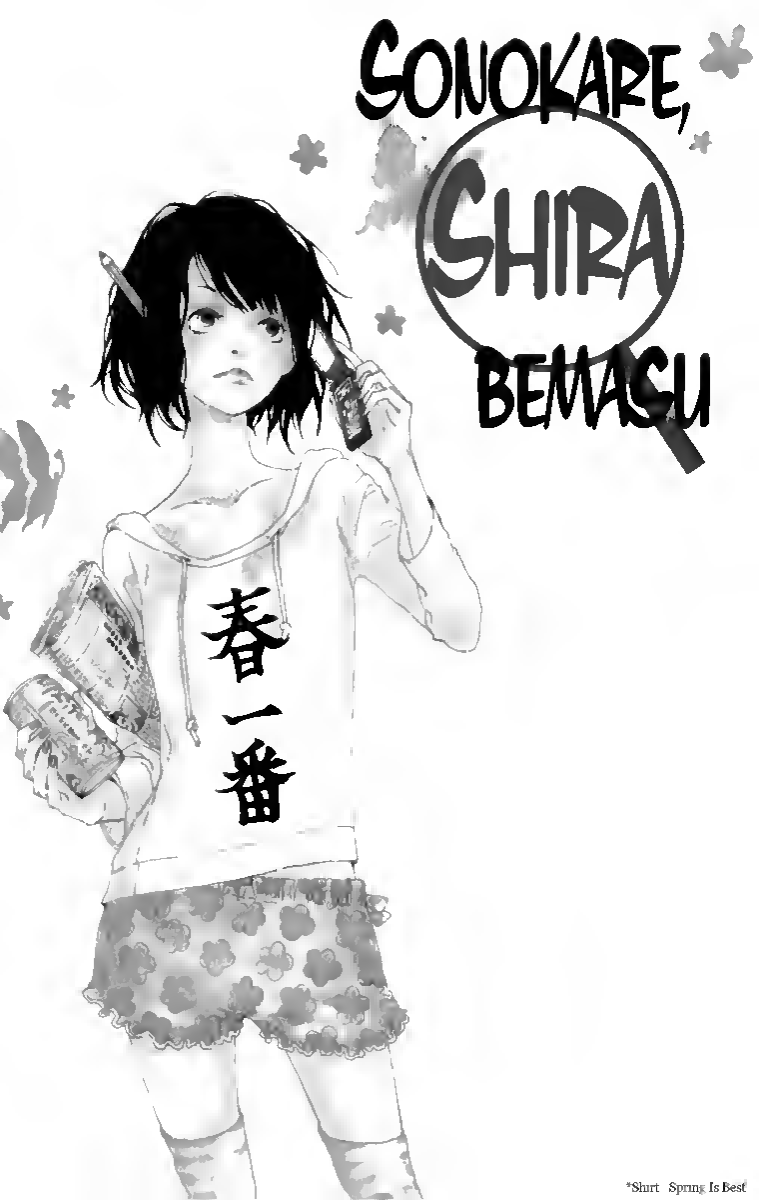
the legendary duo hits Kawahara Kazune!

Catch my boyfriend in the act, and take pictures as proof!

When a friend up and asks you to catch her boyfriend cheating, what will you find at the end of the chase? The truth about love?

KAWAHARA Kazune Story × Art YAMAKAWA Aiji

SONOKARE, SHIRABEMASU



*Shirt: Spring Is Best

LIKE I SAID, WE ONLY SAW HIM WALKING WITH ANOTHER GIRL.
IT JUST LOOKED LIKE HE WAS HOLDING HER HAND
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LOOKED LIKE?!
LIES!
YOU'RE TOTALLY LYING!
FINE I'LL BE BLUNT
THEY WERE CLINGING TO EACH OTHER, HIM AND THAT GIRL
HE EVEN SAID "I LOVE YOU"!
NO FREAKING WAY!
HE CALLED AND TEXTED ME YESTERDAY, YOU KNOW!
MUKA MUKA
BUT HE LIKES ANOTHER GIRL, TOO?
MAYBE HE MEANS IT
UM,
YEAH
GAME OVER
Kouki Sleepy
Love ya Night

PEOPLE ARE SUCH WIMPS.
SO HE FELL FOR ANOTHER GIRL
OK, I GET THAT.
YOU'D THINK HE'D BREAK UP WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND.
BUT NO, HE HANGS ON TO BOTH GIRLS.
I WANT PROOF
YOU WIN
THAT'S NOT HIM BEING CONSIDERATE.
THAT'S HIM WIMPING OUT.

MIWAKO,
TAKE SOME PICTURES
WHAT?
HUH?
WHA?
RUN INTO HIM ON PURPOSE,
CATCH HIM IN THE ACT, SNAP, AND SHARE!
WHY ME? DO IT YOURSELF
NO!
I DON'T WANT TO BE THE KIND OF GIRL
WHO STALKS HER BOY FRIEND BECAUSE SHE THINKS HE'S CHEATING!
THAT'S JUST LAME AND ANNOYING AND OFF-PUTTING, RIGHT?
PEOPLE ARE SELFISH.
MUMBLE
YOU SAID YOU LIKE AIBOU.*
I DON'T WATCH IT ALL THE TIME NOT AN OLD MAN HERE

*A buddy cop show (the title means "Partners") starring Mizutani Yutaka and Terawaki Yasufumi, pictured above

PEOPLE ARE SO RUDE.
HE TOLD ME HE DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER YOU
HE'S ONLY SEEN YOU ONCE BEFORE, AT THE MIXER
BUT IF IT'S YOU, HE'LL THINK NOTHING OF IT
KOUKI'S RUN INTO AYANO AND SAYO A FEW TIMES ALREADY IF HE SEES THEM AGAIN, HE'LL KNOW SOMETHING'S UP
BESIDES,
I CAN'T SEE HIM LIKE THAT
I'D JUST BREAK DOWN AND CRY ON THE SPOT
I DON'T WANT TO SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES
IN ANY CASE..
WHERE DOES KOUKI GO TO SCHOOL?
MIDORI,

PEOPLE ARE A DRAG.
BOYS' SCHOOL, HUH.
JUST BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE A DATE WITH MIDORI TODAY
HE'LL BE SEEING THAT OTHER GIRL.
MIDORI AND KOUKI MET AT A MIXER LAST SUMMER.
THEY CLICKED, SO THEY DECIDED TO GO OUT.
I WAS THERE, TOO.
(NOT THAT I MANAGED TO GET A GUY.)
NOT THAT HE REMEMBERS.
AND THAT KOUKI IS A TWO-TIMER.

DOING THIS WITHOUT BREAK WON'T KILL ME
BUT IT'S NOT EXACTLY A PROFITABLE JOB, EITHER.
STILL, CHEATING IS A BIG DEAL— TO ALL OF US.
Coffee
It's not normal behavior
ha ha ha ha
THERE HE IS.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DO IT?
BUT I'VE NEVER STALKED PEOPLE.
SURE, I DID WATCH AIBOU
Phone fully charged: check
Cover story: check
Ugh
Ugh

What's Kouki doing?
I hope it's just a mis understanding (>_<)
Menu
Reply
Mom
Kouki is doing
Copy
Taking the field
Roar
Roar
Roar
Roar
MIWAKO-CHAN?!
THUMP
MIWAKO-CHAN?! MIWAKO-CHAN?!
I KNEW IT

HMM?
WHAT?
WHO?
Glance
Glance
LOOKING FOR KOUKI?
WHERE'S MIDORI-CHAN?
OH.
MIWAKO'S BF'S FRIEND?
SHOULD I CALL HIM?
Tak
Tak
!!
Don't call him
...

DO YOU...
LIKE KOUKI OR SOMETHING?
NOPE.
THEN WHY?
YOU THINK HE'S CHEATING?! FOR REAL?
PEOPLE HAVE WEAKNESSES.
WOULDN'T RULE IT OUT, HUH?
BUT THIS IS KOUKI HE PROBABLY IS CHEATING.
Oh ha ha
I WOULDN'T RULE IT OUT HE'S A LADIES' MAN, AFTER ALL.
PROBABLY?
NOBODY ASKED YOU
HUH
WELL, I LIKE GIRLS, TOO.

I WON'T CHEAT, THOUGH.
I DON'T LOOK IT, BUT I'M A STEADY GUY.
NOPE, NOT SEEING IT.
DID ANYONE ASK YOU? NO.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU ANYWAY?
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT. I GET ALL SHY.
PEOPLE SURE ARE DENSE.

I NEED TO TELL MIDORI.
I LOST HIM.
Tap
Tap
Quote
I lost him
Sorry
I KNOW WHERE HE'S GOING
I PROBABLY RECOGNIZE THE GIRL, TOO
I'LL TAKE YOU THERE
I WANT TO HELP
CHEATING IS A BIG NO-NO
PEOPLE ARE TOO FREE

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TAKE PICTURES OF THEM TOGETHER.
THE GIRL GOES TO N GIRLS' SCHOOL, I THINK.
N
Girls' School
YOUR SCHOOL'S THE OTHER WAY, RIGHT, MIWAKO-CHAN?
N GIRLS SCHOOL...
THAT MEANS...
KOUKI'S CUNNING THAT WAY
SOMETIMES HE KEEPS THE CHANGE AND ALL THAT, YOU KNOW?
Miffa
PEOPLE CAN BE SNEAKY.
YUP HE SURE DOES
HE HAS IT ALL WORKED OUT, THEN?
Mufufu
HE SAID HE COULDN'T TELL WHICH ONE WAS HIS
PEOPLE WHO HAD THE SAME JUICE HE HAD ONLY WITH FULLER GLASSES?
WAIT DIDN'T HE SNEAK SIPS FROM OTHER PEOPLE'S DRINKS AT THE PARTY?

WHAT? WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME? YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
DUDE, I DIDN'T ASK YOU.
WRONG.
I DON'T DO THAT I ONLY TAKE FROM EMPTIER GLASSES I'M NOT THAT CHEAP
ha ah ha ha
YES! THAT'S THE GUY, ALL RIGHT
WELL, KOUKI ISN'T ALL THAT BAD
MIDORI-CHAN KNOWS THAT OTHERWISE THEY WOULDN'T STILL BE DATING.
Kouki tells me
He doesn't even remember you.
HE'S CARELESS? CAN'T KEEP SECRETS TO SAVE HIS LIFE?
HE'S EASY TO READ?
UH HIS GOOD POINTS?
HE HAS GOOD POINTS? WHAT?
HIS LOOKS?

*Taichi Hiroshi: middle-aged actor **Oekidan Hitori: actor and comedian

WHAT ISN'T?
Crunch
Crunch
NOT GOING SO WELL.
HE TALKS A LOT
HE HAS PERFECT TEETH.
JUST WHO IS THIS GUY?
MAYBE HE SAW MY PHOTO ON MIDORI'S PHONE.
HE'S FRIENDS WITH KOUKI.
DERPY LOOK TERITORY
To Kawashara Station
NGS Stop
Yamakawa City
CHATTER
CHATTER

AH.
HE'S REALLY HERE.
HUFF
HUFF
AND HE'S TOTALLY TWO-TIMING MIDORI.
NOT TAKING PICTURES?
I'M ON IT.
FLASH
FLASH
FLASH

I WONDER IF THEY'LL MAKE MIDORI CRY.
Sent
VRR
VRR

OH, THEY'LL HOLD HANDS EVENTUALLY
WHEN IT COMES TO TOUCHING, KOUKI DOESN'T HOLD BACK AT ALL.
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT MY PHONE?
PEOPLE REALLY PUSH IT.
New Message
Midori
Clearer pictures please
Menu
Reply
REALLY?
HE EVEN HOLDS HANDS WITH GUYS AT SCHOOL
HE'S TOUCHY-FEELY WITH ME, TOO. HIS IDEA OF "HI" IS HUGGING ME.
WHAT KIND OF GUY IS KOUKI?
HE'D HOLD HANDS WITH ANY GIRL WHO ISN'T HIS GIRLFRIEND
MAYBE
Pretending to help
HE'S KOUKI'S WING-MAN.

MMP
COLD
HOT
WRONG ONE.
HEY,
WANNA TRADE?
WE SHOULD GET SOMETHING TO DRINK, TOO
PUFF
IT'S COLD FOR MARCH.
I FEEL LIKE HAVING A COLD DRINK
PEOPLE ARE SUCH LIARS.

YOU'RE A NICE PERSON, MIWAKO-CHAN.
MENU
YOU'RE OUT HERE IN THE COLD FOR YOUR FRIEND.
NICE? HARDLY.
DEEP DOWN I JUST WANT HER TO DUMP THAT ASS OF A BOY-FRIEND.
RIGHT.
KOUKI DESERVES WHATEVER IS COMING FOR HIM.
BUT... MIDORI LIKES HIM.
SEE? YOU'RE NICE.
I'M NOT NICE!
I THINK HE'S AN ASS!
PEOPLE ARE SHOW-OFFS.
Tremble
Tremble
Huh?

I'LL THROW THAT AWAY FOR YOU. KEEP AN EYE ON KOUKI
OK.
*Can. Yuzu Tea - With just a hint of yuzu orange flavor
HERE.
MY PERSONAL FAVORITE
I SHOULD HAVE BOUGHT A SECOND DRINK IN THE FIRST PLACE.

I'VE NEVER KNOWN ANYBODY WHO GETS THIS EXCITED...
IT'S MY FAVORITE, TOO.
THANKS! I REALLY APPRECIATE IT.
IT'S MY FAVORITE, TOO!
OOPS. SORRY
YOU'RE TOO LOUD!

HE REALLY...
HAS A NICE SET OF TEETH.
...OVER A DRINK I BOUGHT FOR THEM.
THANKS FOR THE DRINK
KOUKI AND THE GIRL ARE LEAVING.
THE PARK?
IN THIS COLD WEATHER?
I'M WARM.
GOOD FOR YOU.

Boat Rental
THEY'RE RENTING A BOAT?!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SO COLD RIGHT NOW? WOW

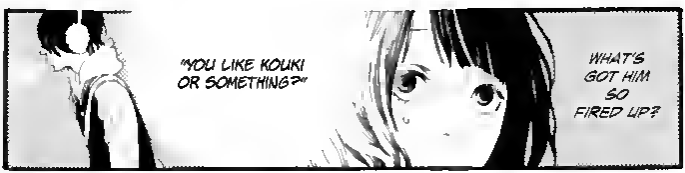
WHY ARE YOU SUCH A CYNIC?

IF IT'S COLD, IT'S COLD
IT MUST BE COZY AND WARM NEXT TO THE PERSON YOU LIKE
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE

MIHAKO-CHAN
THERE AREN'T ANY GOOD PLACES TO HIDE AROUND THE LAKE

WHY IS THAT?
LOVE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
WELL, YOU ACT LIKE...
WHY?
ME, A CYNIC?
BECAUSE GUYS AREN'T INTERESTED IN ME?
Shirt Winter General
THEY GO TO ME, THE OUTSIDER, FOR ADVICE. I GUESS LISTENING TO THEM HAS MADE ME A CYNIC.
NOT ME, THOUGH
MY FRIENDS HAVE NO PROBLEM FINDING BOYFRIENDS
I'M NOT LIKE MIDORI THE KIND OF GIRL A GUY WANTS TO SEE AGAIN AFTER ONE MEETING.
I WENT TO A MIXER HOPING TO SNAG A GUY, BUT NOTHING HAPPENED MAYBE I'M NOT MADE FOR MIXERS

DO YOU DATE SOMEONE AFTER GETTING TO KNOW THEM?
OR DO YOU GET TO KNOW THEM WHILE SEEING THEM? ISN'T THAT PRETTY MUCH THE SAME THING?
Flap
Flap
Flap
NOBODY KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT ANYBODY, RIGHT?!
Flap
BUT!
I MEAN, EVEN A STRANGER'S EXCITEMENT CAN BE INFECTIOUS
FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE IMPORTANT, ALL RIGHT?


"YOU LIKE KOUKI OR SOMETHING?"
WHAT'S GOT HIM SO FIRED UP?

CAN YOU TRUST A STRANGER?
HE GETS IN MY WAY..
BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT MIDORI TO GET HURT
MAYBE HE LIKES MIDORI?
I WON'T HOLD HANDS WITH A GIRL..
UNTIL I'M SURE SHE LIKES ME
YOU SHOULDN'T BE TELLING ME THINGS I NEVER ASKED ABOUT.
YOU'RE CUTE.
WHY WOULDN'T GUYS LIKE YOU?
AND WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT SCREEN SAVER?
NOT BECAUSE YOU LIKED THE COLOR?
NO REASON.
WHY DID YOU PICK A BLUE PHONE?
BECAUSE I GO TO A GIRLS' SCHOOL
NOT POSSIBLE.
WHY NOT?
HAVE YOU EVER HAD A CRUSH ON A GUY?

*A samurai warrior during the Warring States period
17:48
Sanada Yukimura
...
WELL? WHY?
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME WHY?
UH...
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME WHY I'M ASKING YOU *WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME WHY*?
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME *WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME WHY*?
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME WHY I'M ASKING YOU WHY YOU'RE ASKING ME WHY---
UH, HOW MANY TIMES DID I SAY WHY?
FOUR TIMES
PEEK

WHY...
AM I ASKING YOU WHY?
BECAUSE I WANT TO KNOW
I WANT TO REMEMBER HIM.
IS THIS GUY?
JUST WHO...
ha ha ha
HOLY— YOU WERE COUNTING?

DO FRIENDS DO THAT?
NO, OF COURSE NOT
I KNOW, RIGHT
SNAP
SNAP
HE'S DEFINITELY CHEATING.
Movie
Photo
Submit
I GUESS SHE'LL CRY OVER THESE PHOTOS
SHE SHOULD DUMP THAT TWO-TIMING ASS
AND I TOTALLY THINK...
BUT I'M A HORRIBLE LIAR
I CAN TELL HER SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT NOTHING.
I DON'T HAVE TO SEND THESE.

I'D WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH.
ME,
BUT THEN I THINK OF HOW SAD SHE'LL GET...
I WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH SO I CAN MAKE UP MY OWN MIND.
YOU'RE RIGHT
EVEN IF YOU SEND THE PICTURES, SHE PROBABLY WON'T DUMP HIM
SHE MIGHT NOT BELIEVE THEM.
TRUE
I'LL TAKE THAT DAMNING PHOTO.
I NEED TO GET CLOSER
IN THAT CASE,

FLASH
OH,
CRAP.
HE SAW ME.
R-
RUN!
HE CAUGHT ME!
HURRY!
Paddle
Paddle
Paddle
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT
I'M A TOTAL STRANGER TO HIM.
BUT YOU'RE HIS FRIEND! I DON'T WANT YOU TO RUIN YOUR FRIENDSHIP!

IF HE REALLY DID CATCH ME,
I'D BETTER DELETE THE PHOTOS THIS INSTANT.
Deleted
OK
AND THEN...
WHAT WAS I GOING TO DO?
I...
PEOPLE CAN BE UNPRE-DICTABLE.

NO, GET OUT OF HERE!
I'M A GUY
I'LL COOK SOMETHING UP TRUST ME.
I CAN'T LET A GIRL COVER UP FOR ME.
OH?
YOU?
...
WAIT A—
THIS IS NOT ABOUT YOUR MANLY PRIDE, SHEESH.

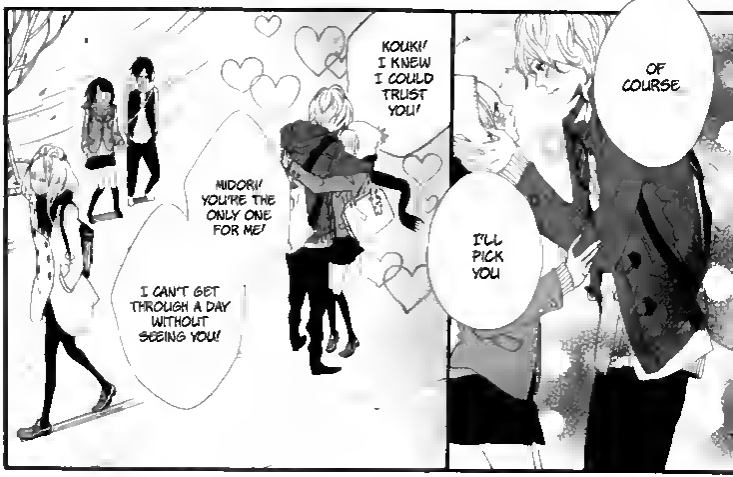
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU ON A DATE WITH THAT GIRL?
WHAT ABOUT MIDORI-CHAN?
Blunc
HUH?
PEOPLE GET DEFENSIVE AT THE LAST MOMENT.

STAY OUT OF MY BUSINESS, TOMOYA.
TOMOYA? THAT HIS NAME?
WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT?
SHOVE
NOT IMPOR-TANT.
NOT MY BUSINESS, I KNOW.
BUT I DON'T LIKE KNOWING MIDORI-CHAN WILL CRY BECAUSE OF YOU
WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
WHO IS MIDORI?!
WHATEVER, MAN!
WHATEVER?! DUDE!
PEOPLE ...
SHUT UP ALREADY!
PEOPLE-

SAD
WHA—
MI-
MIDORI-CHAN.
MIDORI.
MIDORI
YOU WERE FOLLOWING HIM ALL ALONG?
TOO WORRIED, HUH?
ALL HELL IS ABOUT TO BREAK LOOSE WILL SHE DUMP HIM?
UM, UH..
WHO IS THAT GIRL?!
I WAS JUST PASSING BY!
LIES!
WH—
WHY ARE YOU—

PICK ME!

WHAT?! YOU'LL FORGIVE HIM?!
IF YOU DO, I'LL FORGIVE YOU!

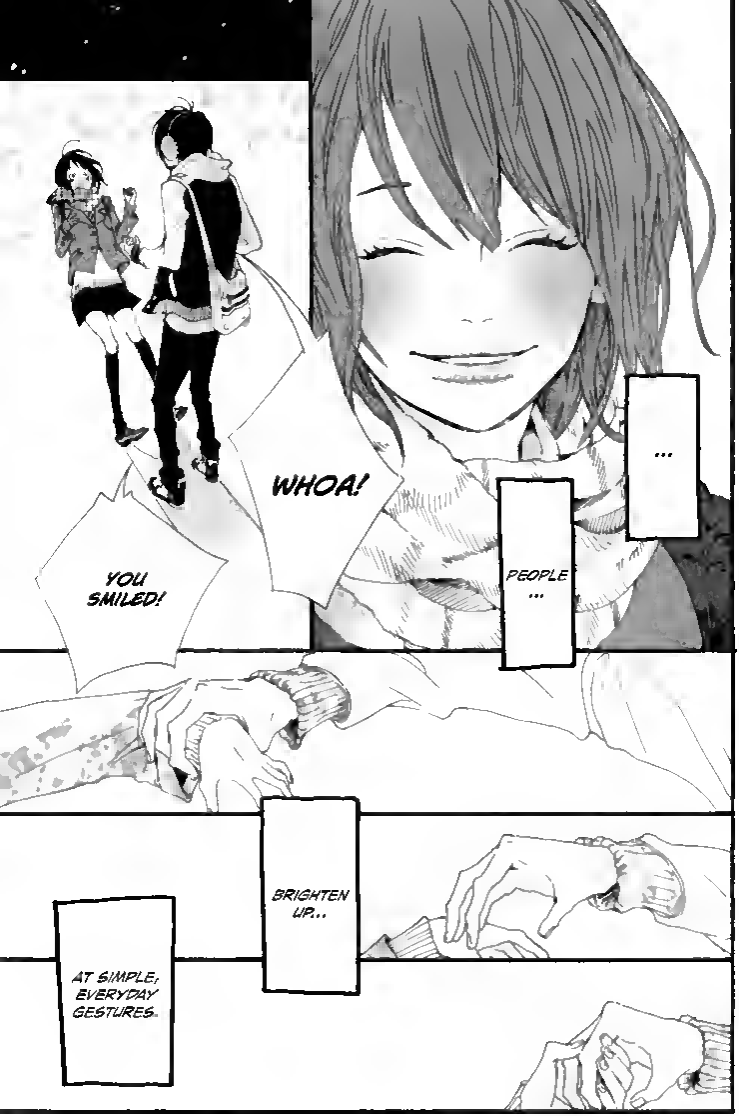

I CAN'T GET THROUGH A DAY WITHOUT SEEING YOU!
MIDORI! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME!
KOUKI! I KNEW I COULD TRUST YOU!
I'LL PICK YOU
OF COURSE

PEOPLE ...
ARE WEIRD.
OH, WELL...
FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK
SHE SHOULD AT LEAST THANK YOU..
IT WAS FUN
MAYBE
KINDA.
AND...
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
WHAT HARD WORK?
MIDORI DID ALL THE WORK
I SUP-POSE

HUH?
THANKS FOR HELPING ME
FIGURES!
I WAS THERE LAST SUMMER, TOO!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
HANG ON!
DIDN'T MIDORI-CHAN EVER MENTION ME?
SHE DIDN'T
I WAS...
THE SICK GUY AT THE PARTY.

JUST AS I WAS DOZING OFF AT A CORNER IN THE KARAOKE ROOM,
YOU ASKED ME IF I NEEDED TO COOL DOWN, AND PUT A WET TOWEL ON MY FOREHEAD
I REMEMBER NOW
OH!
YEAH.
YEAH.
HE WAS THERE AT THE MIXER.
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN.
NOBODY TOLD YOU ANYTHING.
I KEPT TELLING KOUKI I WANTED TO SEE YOU,
BUT NO HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING!
HE WANTED TO MEET...
ME?
THAT GUY IS TOO SELF-ABSORBED

I PUT A WET TOWEL ON YOUR FOREHEAD?
YEAH.
IT WAS REALLY SWEET OF YOU
I ONLY DID IT BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE
BUT STILL!
PEOPLE ARE REALLY SIMPLE.
DOING SOMETHING FOR ANOTHER PERSON'S BENEFIT, NO MATTER HOW SMALL,
THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL KINDNESS, RIGHT?
TODAY I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING: THIS GIRL HAS A BIG HEART.
YOU REALLY DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT ME, HUH.
THAT'S A RELIEF.
I THOUGHT I RUBBED YOU THE WRONG WAY.


...
PEOPLE ...
WHOA!
YOU SMILED!
BRIGHTEN UP...
AT SIMPLE, EVERYDAY GESTURES.

LET'S EXCHANGE E-MAILS
YOU WANT MY NUMBER TOO?
YEAH, WE SHOULD!
OF COURSE I DO!
I WANT TO KNOW YOUR BIRTHDAY AND EVERYTHING ELSE ABOUT YOU!

《 The End 》

Hello. I'm Kawahara, the person who did the writing. I'm so happy this book is out. What do you think? Isn't it wonderful? Don't you feel like staring at it all day long? (Even though here I am, saying weird things. Sorry.)

I've long been a fan of Yamakawa-san. When I was asked to team up with her, I thought, "I'm not dreaming, am I? Yamakawa-san is going to draw for me? Woo-hoo!" On the other hand, I did have misgivings. "Yamakawa-san is capable of writing **and** drawing. Wouldn't she mind drawing someone else's story?" Besides, I was new to outlining manga for another artist. However, my editor told me Yamakawa-san was eager about the collaboration as well. I gave another whoop and set to work—I was that elated.

My outline was nothing more than a rough storyboard.
I'll show you how sloppy it is.
I know, Yamakawa-san is a miracle worker.

Here's my thumbnail.
(Woo-hoo!)
(Nice!)
(Nice!)
(Nice!)
These aren't super deformed versions of the characters. I really threw them this badly.
Here is my Tsuchida-kun.
(Really.) How did he turn out so perfect?!
*The lamp for his eyes spell out Tsuchida.

Yamakawa-san made him so sweet and adorable, I felt sorry for him. I wanted him to be happy so I wrote a follow-up. I don't think there would have been a sequel if it weren't for Yamakawa-san's wonderful rendition of him.

It occurred to me that this was one of the perks of scripting.

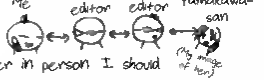
I can't claim sole authorship of this story though.

Looking at Yamakawa-san's manga gave me new understanding of some characters and inspired many plot points. It was a true collaboration, I feel.

(a true witness)

Although I've always loved Yamakawa-san's lively character designs and her portrayal of everyday things, her attention to detail in this manga overwhelmed me—knowing what made them tick, she made the characters come alive. She's just so meticulous (she didn't just draw, she created a work of art), you want to savor each panel over and over again. Pretty faces, funny expressions, beautiful art everywhere, OK? See how passionate I get—I forgot to be formal.

The bus stop signs in "Sono Kare, Shirabemasu" made me grin really wide ^^



(properly)

I've never met Yamakawa-san though. I'd love to thank her in person. I should send her something. I wonder whether she prefers something sweet or something salty. Does she like crab, even though it's a pain to take apart? As much as I want to meet her, I'm nervous, too. I'm a fan of hers, after all. Still I really enjoyed working with her.

Yamakawa-san, thank you so much!
If you feel like working with me again, let me know any time!

Thank you for reading these walls of text. I really appreciate it. Kawahara, out.

← TURN TO NEXT PAGE TO READ ABOUT THE COLLABORATION PROCESS

REVEALED!!

The Making of Tomodachi no Hanashi

GET BEHIND THE SCENES OF THIS COLLABORATIVE WORK, AND CHECK OUT THE DIFFERENCES FROM THE FINISHED PRODUCT ♪

Designs for "Tomodachi no Hanashi 2nd"

"Tomodachi no Hanashi" Part 2 Character Designs

Dear "Sensation Margaret" editorial department,
Thank you for the copy!

I think Narugami-kun is a control freak who somehow ends up following other people's leads!

Yamakawa

I can't wait to draw it!

Kawahara-sensei's Narugami-kun is my type

Narugami-kun
Height 178 cm
Is the cool type. Smart and logical, I think!
Wears glasses
Flippy, unbleached hair
I can't decide between short hair and cornrowed hair with middle parting
This!!
Sorry, I just went with everything I liked
A simple digital watch
Wears his pants neatly
I'd like to hear what Kawahara-sensei thinks

Tsuchida-kun
Height 170 cm
A bit spacey. I think he does his own thing, because he has his head in the clouds
Chestnut brown eyes
Light brown hair
Wears a belt, etc. with a playful touch
Sports a wristband or a bracelet
Has Mickey or some cartoon character on his watch
Lil' rul breaker
Pants rolled up
That's how I view him

Designs for "Tomodachi no Hanashi"

Character Designs

Phone Charm
A beach souvenir Moe's boyfriend got her and Eiko

Moe's is pink
Eiko is blue

Moe
Height 160 cm
Smooth & silky
Arched eyebrows
Large eyes
Long eyelashes
Refers to herself in third person
A simple bag with red checks
Shortened
Light pink manicure
Knee socks, white
Loafers

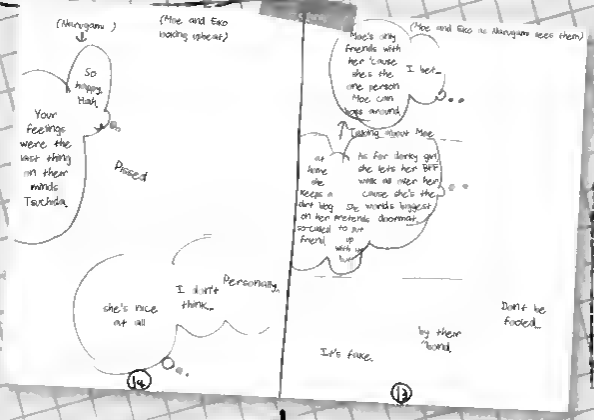
Eiko
Height 158 cm
Curly & unbleached
High school second-years
Refers to herself in first person
Almost never wears makeup
Small eyes
Droopy eyebrows
Student-ish charms
Eiko's bag
Regulation length
Doesn't see herself as beautiful or likes cute things
Mid-calf socks, light navy blue
Basic sneaker boots
Or pair of sneakers?

They use a picture of them together for their phone background

Clashing interests!

From Storyboard to Manuscript

Pages from "Tomodachi no Hanashi 2nd"


(Akiyagami)
(Moe and Eko reading ahead)
So happy. Hah.
Your feelings were the last thing on their minds. Tsuchida.
Passed
(Moe and Eko as Akiyagami sees them)
Moe's only friends with her 'cause she's the one person Moe can boss around.
I bet...
Talking about Moe.
As for donkey girl, she lets her BFF walk all over her 'cause she's the world's biggest doormat.
At home she keeps a dirt bag on her armband so she can pretend to be friends with him.
Personally,
I don't think...
she's nice at all
Don't be fooled.
by their "bond."
It's fake.
14
13

Kamakawa-Sensei's Storyline

WHEN A NEW CHARACTER WAS INTRODUCED, YAMAKAWA-SENSEI SKETCHED OUT THE DESIGN

Yamakawa-Sensei's draft
Your feelings were the last thing on their minds. Tsuchida
In the end it was all about them
I bet
Moe's only friends with her 'cause she's the one person Moe can boss around
As for donkey girl
All while...
It's fake
Don't be fooled by the "bond"
Gloom
Ugh
Ugh

FINAL MANUSCRIPT

MORE CHANGES WERE MADE AT THIS POINT. YOU CAN COMPARE THESE ROUGH PAGES TO THE FINAL ONES IN THE BOOK.

Post-publication interview!

Interview with these two mangaka after their first-ever collaboration, reproduced here from the magazine Deluxe Margaret

Kawahara Kazune-sensei

Q1: Was it different only doing the script as opposed to writing and drawing on your own?
A: At first since I had the opportunity of having Yamakawa-san on board, I wanted to do something big, something I wouldn't have been able to depict on my own. But in the end, I couldn't do it. I resorted to doing the thumbnail the usual way.

Q2: What is the theme of this story?
A: Friendship between girls, and what it's like when your friend gets a boyfriend. An old theme with my own twist to it. There are no two ways about it so I hope you'll read it.

Q3: Who is your favorite character?
A: Tsuchida-kun, who Yamakawa-san drew so adorably. And Eiko also cutely drawn. It's hard to play favorites with my own creations, but strangely, they become adorable at the hands of someone else.

Q4: Who do you like better: Ayase Haruka or Sawajiri Erika?
A: If I had to choose: Erika-sama. I like them both, though. I wish I could be as pretty as them.

Q5: How did you feel when you had a look at Yamakawa-san's character designs and drafts?
A: I couldn't be happier. She more than made up for what I couldn't illustrate myself. I have no complaints!

Q6: Any message for the readers?
A: I'm worried about letting Yamakawa-sans fans down. Please give this story a chance. I would love to have someone tell us, "Please team up again!"

Yamakawa Aji-sensei

Q1: What was your first impression of the storyboard?
A: I was blown away—you almost never get to see another author's storyboard. I was proud I could read Kawahara-sensei's chicken scratches (laughs). Sorry. As soon as I read it, I had a sense of who Moe and Eiko were as characters.

Q2: Was it different from doing your own storyboards and drafts?
A: Not particularly. Is it weird if I say "No"? Layout is decided at the thumbnail stage so I was concerned, but it was, weirdly, more fun tinkering with the outline. That's what I think, anyway!

Q3: Who is your favorite character?
A: I love them all. I'm embarrassed to say (laughs). If I rank them, Moe is first. I hope she makes a man out of Eiko's brother.

Q4: Who do you like better: Ayase Haruka or Sawajiri Erika?
A: Ayase Haruka-chan. If I were a guy, I'd make a beeline for her (laughs). Oops, I went all male gaze there. My friend would pick Sawajiri-san.

Q5: Any message for the readers?
A: I think friendships run deeper than romantic love. It's different in that friendship is about our natural need for companionship—male or female doesn't matter. There's something profound about that, isn't there? I'm still learning the ropes, but I hope I can keep churning out manga that the readers and I enjoy.

Afterword

Hi there. This is Yamakawa, the artist. I have so much to say, so much to put into words, and yet I realize I've been sitting here for several minutes, with a pen in my hand and a blank page in front of me.

TWO PAGES DO NOT CUT IT.

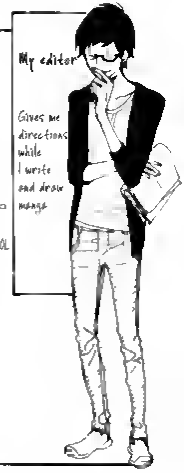
Now that I think about it, it's been two years, give or take.

Editor: Actually, somebody suggested you team up with Kawahara-san.
Me: Huh? Team up?
Editor: What do you think, Yamakawa-san? Do you want to give it a try?
Me: I do. But are you sure it's a good idea? I'm not exactly...

Editor: The (current) deputy editor thought it would be interesting.

Me: Um... if you think I'm up for the job, then yes, of course!
Editor: All right. I'll tell them you said OK.

Hey, that's putting it lightly! LOL



I only half believed it up until the moment the thumbnails (the manga equivalent of outline, done in pencil) reached me. When I did get Kawahara-sensei's thumbnails, for a while I was so overwhelmed, I could hardly read them. I just stared. After I calmed down, I read them once, twice... three times. ^^

It was like having a yet-untouchable ✝ NATIONAL TREASURE ✝ in my hands. To give you an idea:

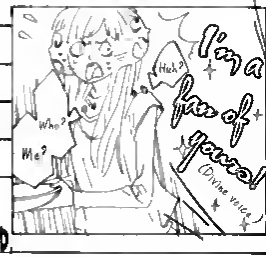
A SKY-BLUE

story, total opposite of me, midnight-blue me.

Set to the tune of Nakamura Ayumi's song, "Tsubasa no Oreta Angel" (Angels With Broken Wings), which I'm humming!

(I only remember the chorus.) It's ridiculous comparing myself to the angels in the song, but I was afraid to take flight in that blue sky. As I went through the thumbnails, I thought maybe I should back out. But every time I looked at them, I remembered the first time Kawahara-sensei spoke to me, at a buffet dinner for "Bessatsu Margaret" authors. She's probably forgotten all about it, though. I was enjoying my dinner when she approached me from the side, speaking in a soft voice. I glanced at her name tag and panicked. I can't remember what I said in return, but I hope it wasn't anything rude!

Kawahara-sensei was probably just being polite, but it was one of the happiest days in my life ☆



So **PLEASE, PLEASE, PRETEND THAT NEVER HAPPENED.**

Me: I'm done with the character designs! Nothing set in stone, of course.
Editor: Really? Could you send them to me so I can show them to Kawahara-san?

That was cue for my emotions to run high.

Editor: We want you two to team up again!
Me: Are you serious?! I'm so taking you up on that!

I'm so grateful for the opportunity of working together with Kawahara-sensei for all four chapters. I wonder if she was just putting up with my craziness, for which I'm sorry, though I'm counting my blessings, too. I love Kawahara-sensei like Nello loves Alois. Doesn't matter if it's one-sided. She can leave me hanging... LOL. I'll do my best to be able to stand next to her in the manga world.

And if we ever meet again, I'm going to tell her, "I'm a fan of yours!" ☆

To everyone at the editorial department, my silent but amazing supporters,

and all the readers who have made it this far,

I give you my heartfelt thanks.

2010. 10. 25

SPECIAL PIN-UP

Tomodachi no Hanashi

THE SECRET OF FRIENDSHIP

YAMAKAWA Aiji Art × Story KAWAHARA Kazune

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